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SUMMER BIRDS OF THE ROAN MOUNTAIN HIGHLANDS

RICHARD L. KNIGHT
804 North Hills Drive
Johnson City, TN 37604

ABSTRACT

The Roan Mountain highlands, on the Tennessee and North Carolina border, have a long history of bird study. Eighty-three species of birds have been reported there during the nesting season, although only just over half are proven or suspected breeders. Several of the summer birds at this site have a limited breeding distribution in the Southern Appalachians. This article pieces together many scattered reports and reviews the status of the summer birds found on the summit of Roan Mountain.

INTRODUCTION

The highlands of the Roan Mountain massif have long attracted naturalists, particularly botanists and ornithologists. Apparently the first ornithologist to publish sightings of the birdlife there was George B. Sennett (1887), who visited in spring and summer of 1886. Since then numerous ornithologists and birders have examined the avifauna found on the summit of "the Roan," as it is known to local residents. Several articles published over a broad span of years and many reports published within seasonal summaries of two state journals (i.e., *The Migrant* and *The Chat*), as well as some unpublished sources, provide data on the summer birds of this site. Included are the personal observations of the author accumulated from 1978-2009. Herein I attempt to synthesize these records of the summer birds, particularly breeding species, of the highest elevations on Roan Mountain.

This review covers 83 species of birds documented during the period from late May through early July. Forty-eight of these have been reported to or are strongly

suspected to breed on the summit of Roan Mountain, as described below. Of these 48 breeders, only 25% (n = 12) are Neo-tropical migrants, while the remainder are either permanent residents or short-distance migrants. For several species Roan Mountain is near the southern terminus of their breeding ranges in the East. Brief summaries of the distribution at high elevation in the Southern Appalachians accompany many species accounts to provide perspective.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Roan Mountain sits astride the border of Carter County, Tennessee and Mitchell County, North Carolina, with part of Grassy Ridge in Avery County, North Carolina. The area covered in this summary stretches from Eagle Cliff in the west to Grassy Ridge Bald in the east, a linear distance of about 4.5 miles (7.2 km). The coverage area lies entirely within the Cherokee National Forest (Tennessee side) and Pisgah National Forest (North Carolina side). The highest point on the mountain, at Roan High Knob, has an elevation of 6285 ft (1916 m). The elevational cutoff for this review is 5500 ft (ca. 1675 m) at Carver's Gap, which roughly corresponds to the lower boundary of the Canadian life zone. The Roan Mountain highlands constitute an island of the Canadian life zone surrounded by lower mountains and valleys. The nearest neighboring Canadian zone islands are Unaka Mountain ca. 10 miles (16 km) to the west, Grandfather Mountain ca. 17 miles (27 km) to the east, Mt. Mitchell (in the Black Mountains) ca. 24 miles (38 km) to the southwest, and Whitetop Mountain and Mt. Rogers ca. 50 miles (80 km) to the northeast. All are visible from Roan Mountain on a clear day.

Habitats represented in the Roan highlands are spruce-fir forest, grassy balds, shrub balds (two types - *Rhododendron* and green alder [*Alnus crispa*]), and the ecotones of these and the upper edge of northern hardwoods that border them (Brown 1941). Following logging in the early twentieth century, the second growth spruce-fir forest on Roan differs from the virgin forest in reduced density and basal area (Warden 1989). The current forest is only of medium height. The balsam wooly adelgid (*Adeleges piceae*), an exotic insect pest, has further degraded the spruce-fir forest by killing many of the mature Fraser Firs (*Abies fraseri*; Eagar 1984). Many of these dead conifers have fallen due to wind or ice creating forest gaps which have filled with blackberries (*Rubus* sp.) and deciduous trees.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Each account begins with the following codes (relating to the breeding season only):

1) Abundance:
common - numerous and widespread, usually more than 20 individuals per day;
fairly common - observed most of the time, usually 5-20 individuals per day;
uncommon - observed less often, usually fewer than 5 individuals per day;
occasional - observed infrequently, usually 1 to several individuals per season;
rare - unexpected, not seen every year.

2) Breeding status (confirmed breeder, suspected breeder, non-breeder / visitor).

3) Historical status, when appropriate (former or recent). Records from "The Season" in *The Migrant* and "Briefs for the Files" in *The Chat* are cited in the text. To save space, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is referred to as the Smokies.

Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder. Drumming grouse or broods of young have been reported on the mountain top on several occasions (Phillips 1979, pers. obs.).

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*) Occasional; suspected breeder. Singing bobwhites have been noted sporadically in May through July from 1979-2008, mostly along the balds, but once in a clearing near Roan High Knob (pers. obs.). A covey of five, perhaps a family group, was flushed from the side of Round Bald on 25 October 2006 (pers. obs.).

Rhoads (1895) reported a pair at about 5000 ft (ca. 1525 m) elevation on the slopes of Roan. Although below the elevational cut-off for this review, this old record indicates that the presence of bobwhites at high elevation is not just a recent occurrence. Similarly, Ganier (1936:84) heard one "far down the mountainside," but stated that "conditions on top would seem suitable for it in summer." Stupka (1963) and Simpson (1971) reported a few sightings from highland areas elsewhere in the Southern Appalachians, including chicks at 5800 ft (ca. 1770 m) in the Smokies and at 5647 ft (1722 m) on Spruce Mountain in North Carolina, respectively.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Uncommon; visitor. Sometimes seen soaring over the mountain top; there is no evidence of breeding in the Roan highlands.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Rare; visitor. One was "observed several times soaring above the higher points of the Roan Mountain" in early July 1911 (Bruner and Field 1912:372). Also, Rhoads (1985:479) thought he saw one "from the top of Roan Mountain" in June 1895. However, the area around Roan Mountain would seem unsuitable for nesting by this species.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) Rare; visitor. A female was seen regularly from early July through August 2008 in the Jane Bald and Round Bald area (Jamey Donaldson, pers. comm.). One was seen on nearby Hump Mountain on 21 June 1987 (*Migrant* 58:147). This species could conceivably nest on the grassy balds in this region, although the balds on Roan from Round Bald to Grassy Ridge are relatively small and probably too heavily visited for this ground-nesting raptor to nest. The grassy balds at Hump Mountain, approximately 5 miles (8 km) to the northeast, would seem to be more suitable due to larger area and less human visitation.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) Occasional to uncommon; suspected breeder. Ganier (1936) reported an *Accipiter* thought to be this species. A female

was present from 16-29 June 1977 just below the Rhododendron Gardens and a pair engaged in a flight display was seen there on 21 August 1977 (Phillips 1979); it was felt that these birds nested in the immediate vicinity. Also suggestive of local nesting, an adult was seen carrying prey on 28 June 2006 at the Rhododendron Gardens (pers. obs.). There have been a few additional summer sightings of individuals (pers. obs.). This is a scarce breeding species in the Southern Appalachians (McNair 1987).

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) Occasional; visitor. An uncommon breeder in the surrounding lowlands. Sometimes seen soaring over the highlands, but there is no evidence of breeding here.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) Rare; visitor. An adult was well described from the spruce-fir zone of Roan on 29 August 1977 (Phillips 1979). Another was reported there on 13 August 1981 (age not mentioned; *Migrant* 53:22) and an adult was seen there on 15 August 1988 (*Migrant* 60:35). Although later than the breeding period of this species, these sightings are also much earlier than the expected migration dates for goshawk at this latitude. There is an additional record on 1 June 1991 at an unspecified elevation on Roan Mountain (Knight 2008). The southernmost confirmed breeding records are in West Virginia (Buckelew and Hall 1994), but there are a few reports of spring and summer sightings from the Southern Appalachians (Haney 1981, Lee 1985, Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) hinting at the possibility of breeding.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) Occasional; visitor. An uncommon to fairly common breeder in the surrounding lowlands. Sometimes seen soaring over the highlands, but there is no evidence of breeding here.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Uncommon; visitor. A fairly common breeder in the surrounding lowlands. Sometimes seen soaring over the highlands, but there is no evidence of breeding here.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) Rare; visitor. There is no evidence that this species ever nested at the Roan. Although Rhoads (1895:479) commented that this species was "occasionally seen at Roan Mountain, in which neighborhood they are resident", this statement apparently was based on second-hand information. Similarly, Tyler and Lyle (1933) provided no supporting evidence when they referred to this species as a permanent resident of the mountains. It is more likely that Golden Eagles were winter visitors that took advantage of the spring lambing season at mountain pastures and that some non-breeding sub-adults may have lingered into late spring or summer (Dubke 1964, Lee and Spofford 1990). Currently, it is "not considered a former or present native breeding species in Tennessee" (Nicholson 1997:375).

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) Rare; suspected breeder; former. Individuals were seen at Round Bald on 28 June 1946 (Stevenson and Stupka 1948) and 10 June 1956 (Stevenson 1957). These appear to be the only breeding season reports from the Roan highlands. If breeding around the balds, they may have used old flicker cavities as nest sites. Stupka (1963) cited one summer record above 5500 ft (ca. 1675 m) in the Smokies, but no evidence of breeding.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Rare; visitor. An individual seen on 2 Jun 2009 at Carver's Gap (Darrel Wilder, pers. comm.) was a very late migrant.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Rare; suspected breeder; former. Historically, peregrines nested southward down the Appalachian chain to Georgia (Hickey 1969). The first indication that this species nested on the Roan was provided by Ganier (1934:372), who stated that B.P. Tyler "writes me that a ... pair has been located on Roan Mountain". Although no specifics were mentioned, the most likely nest sites would have been the Eagle Cliff or Roan High Bluff areas. Shortly thereafter, Ganier (1936:84) noted one flying over the Rhododendron Gardens "with prey in its talons" on 22 June 1936 and another nearby two days later. Furthermore, he reported that "cliffs at the High Bluff ... seemed well adapted to an eyrie" (op. cit.). One seen on Roan at 6200 ft (1890 m) on 16 September 1937 (Wetmore 1939) may have been one of the resident birds. If so, it was perhaps the last sighting of these local birds, as the entire eastern U.S. breeding population had died out by the middle of the twentieth century due to breeding failure caused by pesticide contamination (Hickey 1969).

Following the U.S. ban on the pesticide DDT in 1972, techniques for the captive breeding of peregrines from Arctic and foreign stock were developed, as well as methods to release, or hack, these birds into the wild (Barclay and Cade 1983). As part of this release program, five young peregrines were hacked at Eagle Cliff on Roan Mountain from 11 June through late July 1997 (Marsh et al. 1997). This was the last of numerous releases in the North Carolina and Tennessee mountains that began in 1984 and restored a small breeding population in the region (Knight and Hatcher 1997, Marsh et al. 1997). Currently, the nest sites nearest to Roan are at Grandfather Mountain and Linville Gorge (Marsh et al. 1997); however, observers should be alert to the possibility of peregrines nesting at the Roan again.

American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder. Sennett (1887:241) saw a pair on the summit of Roan and stated that "one or two pairs have been known to breed here every year". A nest with four eggs was found 24 May 1942 at about 6000 ft (1830 m) elevation in the Mitchell County portion of the summit, apparently near the present Rhododendron Gardens (Tanner 1942). In recent decades, woodcock have been seen or heard calling at Carver's Gap on numerous occasions, with a range of dates from 13 April through mid October (Simpson 1968a, *Migrant* 58:147 and 59:103, pers. obs.). Simpson (1968a) encountered this species at several sites in western North Carolina at elevations of 4900 - 6200 ft (1490 - 1890 m).

Figure 1. Northern Saw-whet Owl: 13 September 2004; banded at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain, TN/NC.
(Photo by Richard L. Knight)

Figure 2. Hermit Thrush: 3 September 2004; banded at Carver's Gap on Roan Mountain, TN/NC; note heavy dorsal spotting indicative of a juvenile.
(Photo by Richard L. Knight)

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) Uncommon; suspected breeder; recent. A single dove was observed at Carver's Gap on 14 May 1994, with annual breeding season reports there from 1999 through 2009 (pers. obs.). Most sightings involve one to two birds, with a maximum of seven on 15 August 2003. Juvenile doves at Carver's Gap on 25 August 2001 and 15 August 2003 (pers. obs.) strongly suggest breeding at this site. The range of dates at Carver's Gap span 12 April through 29 October. Single sightings at Engine Gap on 12 July 2001, in the Rhododendron Gardens on 2 June 2003, and along the road up to Roan High Knob on 6 June 2008 are the only reports away from Carver's Gap (pers. obs.). These appear to be the first breeding season reports for this species above 5000 ft (1525 m) in the Southern Appalachians. Stupka (1963) cited a calling bird at 4522 ft (1378 m) in the Smokies, while adults and juveniles have been seen around a cluster of houses at about 4450 ft (ca. 1360 m) on the mid-slope of Roan (pers. obs.).

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*) Rare; visitor. Although often heard calling from lower elevations, where this species is fairly common, reports of individuals actually occurring above 5500 ft (ca. 1675 m) on Roan are very infrequent and there is no indication of breeding at that elevation. Stupka (1963) cites reports of calling birds to the highest points in the Smokies, but provides no evidence of nesting in the highlands.

Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) Occasional to uncommon; confirmed breeder; recent (Figure 1). The first report of this species from the Roan was of a calling bird at Roan High Bluff on 13 April 1968 (Simpson 1968b). However, searches by local birders shortly thereafter were fruitless. The next report was of three owls calling on 27 June 1981 at Roan High Knob (*Chat* 46:23), followed by a single owl calling during 12 - 27 April 1985 (pers. obs.). Saw-whets have been found nearly annually since then. Calling owls have been detected from 11 February through 13 October, with the peak in April and May. Two studies conducted independently on Roan in 1993 both reported five Saw-whet territories (Barb 1995, Milling et al. 1997). Nesting evidence at Roan Mountain (all from nest boxes in spruce-fir forest):

- 16 March 1994, one egg, later abandoned due to apparent squirrel predation (Barb 1995);
- renesting in same box, 26 April - 5 May 1994, five eggs laid, with four eggs hatched by 1 June and four young fledged by 30 June (Barb 1995);
- 1 June 1994, four young in different nest box, all fledged by 20 June (Barb 1995);
- 7 April 1995, six eggs, then six young on 6 May (*Migrant* 66:55);
- 11 May 1995, six eggs in different box (*Migrant* 66:55);
- 6 March 1997, four eggs, then four young on 7 May (*Migrant* 68:113);
- summer 2001, "active nest in box" (*Migrant* 72:126);
- 25 May & 13 June 2007, one adult in nest box (pers. obs.).

The first breeding season reports of this species in the Southern Appalachians came from the Smokies on 21 June 1941 (Stupka 1946, but see Ganier 1946). More

recent efforts have proven Saw-whets to occur in most islands of spruce-fir forest from southwest Virginia (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) south to the Great Balsam Mountains (Simpson 1968b), southeast of the Smokies.

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) Occasional to uncommon; confirmed breeder (?), former. Rhoads (1895:484) reported swifts "nesting in chimneys of Cloudland Hotel", which was located near Roan High Knob, although he provided no further details. Ganier (1936) encountered swifts daily and, although he noted that there were three or four chimneys on the mountain top and they were in use, he speculated that the swifts nested at lower elevation. Given the lack of man-made nesting sites today, recent sightings (Phillips 1979, pers. obs.) probably pertain to foraging birds from the surrounding lowlands. The highest elevation for a verified nest record in the Smokies was at 4522 ft (1378 m) inside a building; however, reports of swifts apparently prospecting for nest sites in hollow trees came from locations above 6000 ft (1830 m; Stupka 1963).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) Uncommon to fairly common; suspected breeder. This species was not found on the summit by Rhoads (1895) or Bruner and Field (1912); however, Sennet (1887) and Ganier (1936) saw this species often. Similarly, recent observers have found them to be rather common (Phillips 1979, pers. obs.), particularly when the rhododendrons are in bloom. There is no known evidence of nesting at high elevation on Roan, although it is suspected to nest there (pers. obs.). Stupka (1963:79) noted that this species "occurs at all altitudes" in the Smokies, with a female gathering nest material at 5266 ft (1605 m) as the highest elevation for breeding evidence.

Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) Rare; non-breeder. Sennett (1887) mentioned two encounters on the summit of Roan, one in late June 1886 and the other undated, with no indication of breeding. The only other summer report is that of one flying over the spruce-fir on 19 June 1977 (Phillips 1979). This species is occasionally seen as a southbound transient in September (pers. obs.). Stupka (1963) cited a nest with young on 11 June 1935 at Hemphill Bald (5573 ft, 1699 m) in the Smokies, but few other high elevation reports; this appears to be the only breeding record at high elevation in the Southern Appalachians.

Downy Woodpecker (*Picoides pubescens*) Occasional; suspected breeder. This woodpecker occurs infrequently on the summit during the breeding season (Sennett 1887, Ganier 1936, pers. obs.). Ganier (1936) noted a pair at 5600 ft (ca. 1700 m), but evidence of breeding on the summit is lacking. In the Smokies, Stupka (1963) noted that this species is outnumbered by the Hairy Woodpecker nearly four to one above 3500 ft (1070 m); a similar ratio occurs on top of the Roan (pers. obs.).

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder. Reported in small numbers on the summit of Roan by most observers (Sennett 1887, Rhoads

1895, Ganier 1936, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). A pair with two recently fledged young was seen near Roan High Knob on 8 July 1983 (pers. obs.).

Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) Occasional; suspected breeder; former (?). Rhoads (1895:484) referred to this woodpecker as "one of the few lowland birds which makes its home at Cloudland". Ganier (1936:84) reported that "only two were seen on top". The species was found around the Roan balds on 10 June 1956 by Stevenson (1957). However, there have been very few recent reports; one on 7 June 1979 (Potter and Legrand 1980) and one at Carver's Gap on 4 June 1994 (pers. obs.). McNair (1987) noted that breeding records of flickers above 5000 ft (ca. 1525 m) are scarce in the Southern Appalachians.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) Rare; non-breeder. Rhoads (1895) encountered two separate individuals in late June on the slopes of Roan Mountain at about 4000 ft (1220 m), but found none near the summit. None of the other early ornithologists mentioned this species here during the breeding season; one seen on 12 September 1937 (Wetmore 1939) was likely a migrant. Apparently the only June sightings on top are those of Phillips (1979), who found two on 17 June 1977 just below the Rhododendron Gardens, with a single bird still there two days later and an immature that was seen nearby on 28 August. This species is a notoriously late spring migrant and the latter date is within the normal range of dates for a fall migrant.

The only confirmed record of breeding in the Southern Appalachians is that of a nest found on 30 June 1974 in the Smokies (Williams 1976), where Stupka (1963:95) considered the species to be "by no means a rare breeder" based on numerous summer records of singing birds. There are three summer reports in the mountains of Virginia, but no evidence of breeding in that state (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007). Formerly "widely distributed in some numbers" during summer in the mountains of West Virginia (Hall 1983:76), this species declined significantly after about 1950 in that state (op. cit.) and in the Smokies (Williams 1976).

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) Rare; non-breeder. An individual near the Rhododendron Gardens on 3 July 2008 was likely a post-breeding wanderer (pers. obs.). This species typically breeds below 5000 ft (ca. 1525 m; Knight 2008).

Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) Uncommon to fairly common; confirmed breeder; recent. This species was first confirmed at this site on 13 June 1978 (LeGrand 1979, Lura et al. 1979), although there was an unverified report from the previous year by a visiting birder. Much earlier, a specific search on 28 June 1946 failed to find this species along the alder balds of Roan Mountain (Stevenson and Stupka 1948). Furthermore, Lura et al. (1979) noted that Fred Behrend had worked this area on Roan frequently up until the early 1970s without noting this species, thus they concluded that the species had been present for no more than four to five years prior to 1978. Alder Flycatchers have been noted at Roan every summer since their

discovery. Breeding was first documented by a fledgling found on the northeast face of Round Bald on 24 June 1978 (Lura et al. 1979). A nest with four eggs was found on 23 June 1988 at Carver's Gap, with three young fledging on 13 July (Hull 1990). The one-day high count was 15 tallied between Carver's Gap and Grassy Ridge on 10 June 2002 (*Migrant* 73:114). Alder Flycatcher is one of the latest arriving breeding birds in the region and has a very brief period of occurrence, with a range of dates spanning 11 May through 19 August at Roan Mountain (Knight 2008).

This flycatcher has recently extended its range southward down the Appalachians. Prior to the 1970s, its southern limit was in West Virginia (Buckelew and Hall 1994). It has been present in the Mt. Rogers area of southwest Virginia since 1974 (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) and was first reported in North Carolina near Blowing Rock on 29 May 1972 (*Chat* 36:114), with nesting recorded as far south as Haywood County, North Carolina (McNair 1987). As a breeding species, it is known from just a handful of sites in North Carolina (McNair 1987). Although singing birds have been found at a few other sites in Carter, Johnson, and Unicoi Counties (Knight 2008), the summit of Roan Mountain remains as the only verified nesting site in Tennessee.

Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) Occasional; suspected breeder. Three recent sightings suggest the possibility of breeding at Carver's Gap: 16 June 2000 and 28 June / 14 August 2006 (pers. obs.); individual singing birds were noted on the first two instances, while a pair was together on the last. One near the Rhododendron Garden on 21 July 1993 and another at Carver's Gap on 10 August 2003 (pers. obs.) could have been post-breeding dispersers. A few potential nesting structures exist near these sites in the form of small buildings, with rock outcrops and upturned tree roots providing additional potential nest sites. This species occurs regularly up to about 4500 ft (ca. 1370 m; Knight 2008), with only a few nests found from that elevation up to 5520 ft (1683 m) in the Southern Appalachians (Stupka 1963, Simpson 1968c, McNair 1987).

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) Rare; non-breeder. Single birds were present at Carver's Gap on 6 June 1986 and 7 June 1992 (pers. obs.). This flycatcher typically breeds below 4000 ft (1220 m; Knight 2008).

Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) Fairly common; confirmed breeder. Rhoads (1895:493) "heard a few on Roan Mountain, from just below fir belt down to 3000 ft" (ca. 900 m). Bruner and Field (1912) reported this species from the Canadian zone of area mountains, but provided no specifics. Five were found near the summit by Ganier (1936), who also reported a nest with three young nearly ready to fledge on 22 June 1936 just above Carver's Gap at about 5600 ft (ca. 1700 m). A nest containing 4 young was observed on 16 July 1993 in the spruce-fir forest at about 5900 ft (1800 m; *Migrant* 64:89). Recent observers have regularly reported small numbers of this vireo on the summit (Philips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.).

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) Rare; non-breeder. Individuals singing at Carver's Gap on 3 July 1993 and 7 June 2000 (pers. obs.) were not present subsequently. This species typically breeds up to about 4000 ft (1220 m; Knight 2008).

Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) Uncommon; non-breeder. Of the early ornithologists visiting the Roan, only Ganier (1936) found this species on top of the mountain, reporting just three birds. Recent observers also report individuals or small flocks, generally just moving through the treetops, in June and July (Phillips 1979, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Breeding evidence is lacking for the highlands of Roan, while Stupka cited breeding only up to 5375 ft (1640 m) in the Smokies.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) Uncommon to fairly common; visitor / suspected breeder. Apparently this species was scarce or absent at the higher elevations in earlier times, as it was not mentioned by Sennett (1887) or Ganier (1936). Rhoads (1895:487) said that crows were found everywhere "except in the evergreen mountain belt". Bruner and Field (1912) listed crows as occurring in the Canadian zone of area mountains, but provided no specifics. Small numbers have been seen frequently in recent years during the summer (Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.); although they were not reported by Phillips (1979). Most are seen flying through the highlands and, thus, are presumed to be non-breeding visitors. However, a young crow barely capable of flight found in the spruce-fir at Carver's Gap on 4 June 2001 suggested that a nest was nearby, but none could be found (Trently 2002).

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) Uncommon to fairly common; suspected breeder. Found throughout Tennessee during the early nineteenth century, this species had become restricted to the higher elevations of the mountains along the Tennessee and North Carolina border by the early twentieth century (Ganier 1973). Sennett (1887) did not mention this species, but Rhoads (1895) and Bruner and Field (1912) found pairs residing on the top of Roan Mountain. Ravens were seen daily by Ganier (1936), who surmised that they nested on cliffs near Roan High Bluff. Ravens have persisted here in modest numbers (Phillips 1979, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Apparently no nests have been verified on the mountain, although they presumably nest on Eagle Cliff. The regional population in northeast Tennessee has grown and expanded slightly in recent decades, with breeding records in Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, and Unicoi Counties (Knight 2008).

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) Rare to occasional; confirmed breeder. This species is found infrequently on the grassy balds. There are three confirmed breeding records: an adult persistently carrying food on 30 June 1935 (Tyler 1936), a pair with a young bird in mid June 1936 (Ganier 1936), and an adult with a juvenile on 21 June 1983 (pers. obs.); all three records are from Round Bald. Horned Larks may prefer heavily grazed pasture land, such as on nearby Yellow Mountain Bald, North Carolina, over undisturbed grassy balds.

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) Rare; confirmed breeder; recent. A pair was observed feeding young in a nest box on the Tennessee side of Round Bald in late May and again on 18 June 1999 (*Migrant* 70:134) and on 30 June 2000 (pers. obs.). A pair was seen flying around the box on 28 June 2001 (pers. obs.). This nest box was mounted on a post that stood in an open area at approximately 5725 ft (1745 m) elevation. These records are the only evidence of breeding in the Roan highlands, but this species is occasionally seen foraging over the balds or as a transient passing overhead. Tree Swallows have increased significantly as a breeding species in northeast Tennessee since the first regional nest was found in 1986, and they typically breed up to about 3500 ft (1070m; Knight 2008).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Occasional; visitor. Individuals foraging over the balds in June and July (pers. obs.) probably represent visitors from breeding sites at lower elevation. Typically this species breeds up to about 3500 ft (1070 m; Knight 2008), but McNair (1987) noted nesting up to 5600 ft (ca. 1700 m) elsewhere in western North Carolina.

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) Rare; visitor. Lyle and Tyler (1934) noted this species here on 7 July 1934. These probably represented migrants.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Uncommon; visitor. Individuals or small groups foraging over the mountain top in June and July (Phillips 1979, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.) probably represent visitors from nearby lowland breeding sites or transients.

Carolina Chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*) Occasional; non-breeder. Sightings of one or two individuals of this species have been noted from mid-June through July in several years along the margins of the balds and within the spruce-fir forest (pers. obs.). These are probably post-breeding dispersers, which are encountered more often from August through October (pers. obs.).

Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*) Rare; non-breeder. There are no verified breeding season records from Roan Mountain. Rhoads (1895) found no chickadees in the spruce-fir belt on Roan and considered those below that to be Carolina. No chickadees of any kind were mentioned at Roan Mountain by Sennett (1887), Ganier (1936), or Wetmore (1939). Bruner and Field (1912) found Black-caps only in the Black Mountains. Herndon (1950) does not include Black-capped Chickadee in a list of Carter County birds. Only Lyle and Tyler (1934:53) report this species in northeast Tennessee during summer, stating that it is "less common" than the Carolina Chickadee and that "doubtless it breeds here at high altitudes". Without substantiation, however, their claim lacks credibility given the findings of others in that era. In recent surveys (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980), no chickadees were encountered on the summit of Roan. Sightings reported in June

and July 1978 (*Migrant* 49:96) and June 1981 (*Chat* 45:108) were almost certainly Carolina Chickadees (see comments above for that species).

The only extant verified populations of Black-capped Chickadees south of Virginia are in the Smokies and Plott Balsam Mountains, whereas they were extirpated from the Black Mountains by the 1930s (Simpson 1977). Unverified sight records also have come from the Great Balsam Mountains (Simpson 1977) and Grandfather Mountain (Lee et al. 1985) in North Carolina, plus the Unicoi Mountains in Tennessee (Nicholson and McNair 1997). Black-caps have been reported at Mt. Rogers (Scott 1966), however the status of the species there and elsewhere in southwest Virginia is unclear due to hydridization with Carolina Chickadees (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2008).

While relict populations in the Southern Appalachians indicate that this species once had a continuous range in these mountains, it is unknown when most isolated local populations vanished.

Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*) Rare; non-breeder. A single bird was at Carver's Gap on 7 June 2000 (pers. obs.), but it was not found subsequently. This species typically breeds below 4500 ft (ca. 1370 m; Knight 2008). Post-breeding dispersers into the highlands occur occasionally in August through October (pers. obs.).

Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) Fairly common to uncommon; confirmed breeder. This species was not mentioned by Sennett (1887), but Rhoads (1895) encountered at least two on the summit. Bruner and Field (1912) described it as fairly common on Roan, as did Ganier (1936), who also reported a nest containing five eggs found on 23 June 1936 at about 5900 ft (1800 m). Wetmore (1939) reported an individual collected on 16 September 1937 was still in juvenile plumage, indicating local provenance. Recent observations indicate similar status (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Numbers may be significantly reduced in years following a poor cone crop in the spruce-fir forest (*Migrant* 47:103; pers. obs.).

Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder. This species was not mentioned by Sennett (1887), but Rhoads (1895:499) said that "a few were breeding on the summit of Roan Mountain". Conversely, Bruner and Field (1912:370) stated that "all of the characteristic mountain birds ... were noted here except the Brown Creeper". Ganier (1936) failed to find this species on Roan. Phillips (1979) noted three birds on a single June date and Hale (1980) found just one. Potter and LeGrand (1980) commented on the absence of creepers, possibly due to the smaller stature of trees in the spruce-fir forest. This species remained scarce through the early 1990s; but it has increased slightly to regular counts of 3 - 5 singing males since about 1994 (pers. obs). A used nest was found in July 1990 (pers. obs.) and a nest with young was noted on 20-28 July 2000 (Trently 2007), both near Carver's Gap. This species has probably benefitted, at least in the short term, by the recent die-off of trees in the spruce-fir forest which temporarily leave much of the loosened bark that creepers use as nest sites.

Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) Rare; non-breeder. An individual at Jane Bald on 28 June 2001 and another near Roan High Knob on 19 July 2006 (pers. obs.) were post-breeding dispersers, as this species typically breeds below 3500 ft (ca. 1070 m; Knight 2008).

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) Rare; confirmed breeder. The earliest report on the top of Roan is that of singing birds on 7 July 1934 (Lyle and Tyler 1934). This was on the forefront of expansion by House Wrens into eastern Tennessee (Herndon 1956). More recently, individuals were heard singing at Engine Gap on 12 June 1981 and at Roan High Knob on 24 June 1996 (pers. obs.). A nest was found at Carver's Gap on 7 July 1987 (*Migrant* 58:147). In general, there are few reports above 5000 ft (1525 m) during the breeding season in the Southern Appalachians (McNair 1987). This species is common in the lower elevations around Roan Mountain up to about 4500 ft (ca. 1370 m).

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) Uncommon to fairly common; confirmed breeder. This species has been encountered frequently on the summit by all (Sennett 1887, Rhoads 1895, Bruner and Field 1912, Ganier 1936, Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). An adult carrying food to its young was noted by Ganier (1936). Three recently fledged young were seen at Carver's Gap on 14 July 1983 and another two were seen in the spruce-fir forest on 4 July 1997 (pers. obs.).

Golden-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) Fairly common; confirmed breeder. Sennett (1887) collected one juvenile out of a family group on 23 July 1886, but called the species "not common" on Roan. Bruner and Field (1912) also reported this species here; however, Rhoads (1895) and Ganier (1936) did not. Another specimen taken here on 16 September 1937 showed the "crown still in full juvenile plumage with no trace of yellow" indicating that it had hatched locally (Wetmore 1939:217). Hale (1980) found kinglets to be second in abundance only to the junco in 1977; however, Phillips (1979) commented on their relative scarcity that same season. While family groups of fledged young are frequently encountered (pers. obs.), kinglet nests are difficult to find due to their camouflaged construction and well concealed placement. Adult kinglets were observed carrying food to nestlings on 17 June 1980 at Carver's Gap (*Migrant* 51:96). On 7 July 1982 a nest with young was found just west of Carver's Gap at about 5640 ft (1720 m; Knight 1987). Three nests were found near Carver's Gap on 24 June 1987 (*Migrant* 58:147). A high count of 42 birds was reported on 7 July 2006 (*Migrant* 77:148).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*) Rare; non-breeder. A singing male was seen on 21 June 1988 (pers. obs.) along the loop road just west of the Rhododendron Gardens. Another singing male was observed in the spruce-fir zone on 2 June 2008 (*Chat* 72:142). Although the habitat on top of Roan would seem suitable for this species, its southernmost breeding population in the Appalachians is well to the north in the Adirondacks of upstate New York (Peterson 1988).

Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) Occasional; confirmed breeder. Rhoads (1895) did not find it above 4000 ft (1220 m), while Bruner and Field (1912) list it as occurring in the Canadian zone of area mountains, but don't provide any specifics. Ganier (1936:86) reported a pair feeding five "nearly fledged young in nest in cavity of a small buckeye" (*Aesculus octandra*) on Round Bald on 25 June 1936. This remains as one of very few verified nesting records above 5000 ft (1525 m) in the Southern Appalachians (McNair 1987). One bluebird was found on the Roan balds on 28 June 1946 (Stevenson and Stupka 1948). A pair was prospecting for nest sites at Engine Gap on 6 June 1983 (pers. obs.). Others are occasionally seen flying over (pers. obs.), but these may be wandering or migrating.

Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) Fairly common to common; confirmed breeder. This species was not mentioned by Sennett (1887), while Rhoads (1895) reported it as abundant only up to 5000 ft (1525 m). Bruner and Field (1912) list it as occurring in the Canadian zone of area mountains, but provide no specifics. Ganier (1936:85) found it to be "fairly common in the fir belt and down the slopes into the deciduous forest" and reported a nest containing three eggs found at 5500 ft (ca. 1675 m). Recent observations indicate a similar status (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Recently fledged young have been seen several times (pers. obs.).

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) Rare; non-breeder; recent. One was heard singing on 26 June 2005 just below the Roan High Bluff overlook (*Chat* 69:170). In the East this species breeds southward into northern Pennsylvania (Brauning 1992), with a few small disjunct populations in West Virginia (Buckelew and Hall 1994) and on Mt. Rogers in southwestern Virginia, where it has been a rare summer resident since 1966 (Scott 1966). Breeding was documented at Mt. Rogers in 1978 (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007). Up to six singing Swainson's Thrushes were found during June and July of 2007 - 2008 in the Black Mountains of North Carolina (Westphal et al. 2008). One was singing at Mt. LeConte, in the Smokies, on 29 June 2008 (*Migrant* 79:101). Thus, birders should be alert for additional summer occurrences on Roan Mountain.

Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder; recent. The first breeding season record of this species on Roan Mountain was on 7 June 1979 (Potter and LeGrand 1980). This was the first such record south of Mt. Rogers, Virginia. Subsequent summer records at Roan were sporadic until 1991, after which they became annual (pers. obs.). Hermit Thrushes have been heard singing on Roan's summit from 18 April through mid August, with several one-day high counts of five or six singing males in June (pers. obs.). The first evidence of breeding was of a juvenile captured and banded at Carver's Gap on 12 September 1997 (Knight 1997). A recently fledged young was seen 1 July 2002 on the forested side of Round Bald (Trently 2002), and a pair with a recently fledged young was seen in the same area on 15 June 2009 (Andrew Laughlin, pers. comm.). From 2002 through 2007, a total of 20 juveniles were netted and banded at Carver's Gap between 19

August and 29 September (pers. obs.; Figure 2). These birds displayed moderate to heavy dorsal spotting produced by buffy tips to the feathers of the upperparts from the crown to the back and wing coverts (Pyle 1997), indicative of juveniles still on their natal grounds.

Following their discovery on Roan Mountain, Hermit Thrushes were found at Mt. Mitchell on 26 June 1983 (*Chat* 48:24) and at Grandfather Mountain on 25 July 1984 (Lee et al. 1985). Since then, summer records have come from as far south as the Smokies (*Migrant* 62:28 and *Chat* 66:154) and the Great Balsam Mountains (Westphal et al. 2008). However, the only other confirmed breeding record south of Virginia is that of Browning (2003), who flushed three fledglings on 21 June 2001 at Walker Knob in the Black Mountains of North Carolina. In southwest Virginia, the species has been present on Mt. Rogers since 1966 (Scott 1966), with breeding first confirmed there in 1977 (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007).

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) Common; confirmed breeder. One of the most numerous and widespread birds on the summit all through the years, with numerous reports of nests (Sennett 1887, Rhoads 1895, Bruner and Field 1912, Ganier 1936, Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, Trently 2002, pers. obs.).

Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) Fairly common; confirmed breeder. Sennett (1887) reported two nests with eggs taken near Carver's Gap. Rhoads (1895:498) said "their mewing could often be heard from the porch of Cloudland hotel" on the summit and found a pair breeding nearby. Small numbers have been reported by Ganier (1936), as well as by all recent observers (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Adults carrying food and recently fledged young have been seen on numerous occasions (pers. obs.).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) Occasional to uncommon; confirmed breeder; recent. None of the early bird surveys reported this species from the Roan highlands (Sennett 1887, Rhoads 1895, Bruner and Field 1912, Ganier 1936, Wetmore 1939). Apparently the first reported there was one at about 6000 ft (1830 m) on 29 June 1946 (Stevenson and Stupka 1948). One or two have been seen at Carver's Gap annually since at least 1979 (Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.), with a range of dates from 16 April through 16 October (pers. obs.). Additionally, individuals were seen at Engine Gap on 15 June 1982 and 13 June 2007 (pers. obs.). A juvenile was netted and banded at Carver's Gap on 22 August 2001 and a pair was seen carrying nesting material there on 24 May 2006 (pers. obs.). McNair (1987) cited numerous records of thrashers above 5000 ft (1525 m) in the Southern Appalachians, but with no evidence of breeding. Thus, the breeding evidence mentioned here is the first for that zone.

American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens*) Rare; visitor. Two on Round Bald on 12 June 1987 (*Migrant* 61:79) were tardy migrants.

Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) Fairly common to uncommon; confirmed breeder. Sennett (1887), Bruner and Field (1912), and Ganier (1936) reported this species in the spruce-fir belt on Roan, but Rhoads (1895) did not. Recent observers have found waxwings widely distributed on the summit (Phillips 1979, pers. obs.), although their numbers seem to fluctuate from year to year. An active waxwing nest was seen on 8 July 1981 at Carver's Gap (pers. obs.). Four nests were found near Carver's Gap on 24 June 1987 (*Migrant* 58:147).

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) Fairly common; confirmed breeder; recent. Rhoads (1895) found this species breeding only up to 4000 ft (1220 m) on Roan, while Bruner and Field (1912) list it as occurring between 2000 - 5000 ft (ca. 600 - 1525 m) in area mountains. Ganier (1936) did not find this species on top of Roan, but reported a nest at 3700 ft (ca. 1130 m). Today it is fairly common along the summit (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Observations of adults carrying food and of recently fledged young have been made at Carver's Gap and Jane Bald (pers. obs.). Stupka (1963) commented that this species began to move into the higher elevations of the Southern Appalachians in the 1930s.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*) Occasional; suspected breeder; recent. None of the early bird surveys encountered this species at Roan Mountain. From 30 June through 16 July 1975, one to two singing males were found in the vicinity of the Rhododendron Gardens and the loop road (Herndon 1977) and adults carrying food were seen there on 14 July 1975 (Hall 1975). Over the next 20 years only two summer sighting were reported at Roan, one male on 21 June 1988 (pers. obs.) and one male on 17 May / 20 Jun 1989 at Grassy Ridge (*Migrant* 61:79), but a series of sightings began a decade afterwards with:

- one male on 15-19 June 1998 (pers. obs.);
- one male on 28 June / 1 July 2000 (*Migrant* 71:123; *Chat* 65:42);
- one male from 2 June through 14 July 2003 (pers. obs.);
- one male on 26 June 2005 (*Chat* 69:170);
- one / two males on 28 June / 19 July 2006 (pers. obs.);
- three / two males on 10 / 18 June 2007 (*Migrant* 78:143; *Chat* 71:137);
- six / four males on 6 June / 3 July 2008 (pers. obs.).
- one to four males during 1-23 June 2009 (pers. obs.).

No further evidence of breeding on Roan has been found. In discussing the 1975 occurrences on Roan, Herndon (1977:13) states that there were "two records for the area between the dates of 31 May and 29 August"; these were 4 July 1959 and 28 July 1962. However, it is unclear whether he was referring to Roan Mountain or to the Carter County area in general.

Magnolia Warblers breed in the mountains of West Virginia (Buckelew and Hall 1994) and western Virginia, where they have increased and expanded southward to Mt Rogers since the 1960s (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007). In Tennessee, a small summer population has been present on Unaka Mountain since 1989 (Nagel 1997) and continuing through 2009 (pers. obs.); fledglings were reported there on

27 June 2000 (*Migrant* 71:123) and 8 July 2003 (K. Elam, pers. comm.). Additionally in Tennessee, one male was present on Holston Mountain on 5 June 2004 (*Migrant* 75:162). Occasional summer sightings have come from Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina, since the mid 1980s, with a few other scattered summer reports from the mountains of that state in recent years (Simpson 2009). Two fledglings being fed by two adults at Grandfather Mountain on 25 Jul 2008 is the only verified breeding evidence from North Carolina (Simpson 2009).

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*) Rare; non-breeder. Of the early observers on Roan, Rhoads (1895) found it only up to 4500 ft (ca. 1370 m), while Bruner and Field (1912) report it just once, but give no elevation. Recent observers have noted the unexpected absence of this species from the spruce-fir zone on Roan during the breeding season (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, pers. obs.), thus a singing male there on 4 June 1991 (pers. obs.) was anomalous. This species breeds commonly in northern hardwood forest below 5500 ft (ca. 1675 m) on the slopes of Roan (Knight 2008) and post-breeding dispersers are quite common on the summit beginning in July (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, pers. obs.). In the Smokies this species breeds in both the northern hardwoods and spruce-fir forests (Alsop 1991).

Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Dendroica coronata*) Rare; confirmed breeder; recent. None of the early bird surveys on Roan Mountain encountered this species. The first summer report here was of a female seen carrying nesting material in late June 1993, then on 16 July a pair was observed feeding nestlings and two young fledged from the nest (*Migrant* 64:89). The nest was in a Red Spruce (*Picea rubens*) along the road between Carver's Gap and Roan High Knob, just above the Balsam Road turnoff, at approximately 6000 ft (ca. 1830 m) elevation on the North Carolina side. A few subsequent sightings have come from the Roan, all between Carver's Gap and Roan High Bluff:

- one male on 4 June 1994 (pers. obs.);
- one male on 4 July 1997 (pers. obs.);
- one male on 23 June 2000 (*Migrant* 71:123);
- one male on 17 / 26 June 2005 (*Migrant* 76:148; *Chat* 69:170);
- two males on 25-28 June 2006 (*Migrant* 77:148; *Chat* 70:132);
- one male on 10 June 2007 (*Migrant* 78:143; *Chat* 71:137).

This species has shown a gradual summer range expansion down the Appalachians in recent decades. The first summer records for West Virginia occurred in 1975, with nesting confirmed there in 1987 (Buckelew and Hall 1994). Summering was first noted in the Virginia mountains in 1992; then a pair with enlarged gonads was collected there in 1995, while two males carrying food and recently fledged young were seen in 2001 and 2004, respectively (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007). Yellow-rumps have been reported at two other mountain sites in Tennessee: Unaka Mountain in June of 2000 and 2002 (*Migrant* 71:123 and 73:115) and at Mt. LeConte in the Smokies from 14 June - 11 July 2000 (*Migrant* 71:123). In North Carolina, a

handful of reports since 2001 have come from Craggy Gardens (*Chat* 66:34), Mt. Mitchell (*Chat* 66:34, 68:172, and 69:170), Clingman's Dome in the Smokies (*Chat* 68:172), Grandfather Mountain (*Chat* 70:132), and near Mt. Kephart in the Smokies (*Chat* 71:137; *Migrant* 78:143). No other breeding evidence has been reported from Tennessee or North Carolina.

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) Rare; non-breeder. A characteristic species of the spruce-fir forests elsewhere in the region (Burleigh 1941, Stupka 1963), the Black-throated Green Warbler is unexpectedly absent during the breeding season in this habitat on Roan (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). However, it is a common post-breeding disperser on the summit beginning in July (Phillips 1979, pers. obs.). It is a common breeder at lower elevations on the slope of Roan (Knight 2008). Its historical status as a breeding species here is unclear. Rhoads (1895) reported it up to 3000 ft (ca. 900 m) or more at Roan Mountain. Although Bruner and Field (1912) described it as fairly common on Roan and other nearby mountains at elevations up to 6600 ft (ca. 2010 m), they did not specifically state that it occurred in the spruce-fir forest on Roan. Ganier (1936) did not find it along the summit. Perhaps this species was a casualty of the cutting of the virgin spruce-fir forest.

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) Rare; non-breeder. Rhoads (1895) reported them breeding on Roan, but provided no specifics about elevation or habitat. Conversely, Bruner and Field (1912:370) stated that "all of the characteristic mountain birds ... were noted here except the ... Blackburnian Warbler." This unexpected absence from the spruce-fir zone on Roan during the breeding season also has been noted by recent observers (Phillips 1979; Hale 1980; Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Post-breeding dispersers or migrants may be fairly common beginning in July (Phillips 1979; pers. obs.). Currently this species is a scarce breeder in northeast Tennesse (Knight 2008), generally found in hardwood forests above 3000 ft (ca. 900 m). In the Smokies this species is most common as a breeder in the spruce-fir (Stupka 1963, Alsop 1991).

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) Rare; suspected breeder; recent. A territorial male was present from 23 June - 4 July 2001 and again from 6-29 June 2002 at Grassy Ridge (Trently 2003). This bird was found in a shrubby area at approximately 5800 ft (ca. 1770 m) elevation, right on the state line. No female was ever seen. This is the only potential breeding record for Tennessee. Schmalz et al. (1990) reported likely nesting by this species in 1983-1986 near the Swain and Jackson county line in North Carolina, about 70 miles (110 km) southwest of Roan. Recently fledged young were reported in summer 1986 on Mt. Rogers, Virginia, about 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Roan Mountain (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007). The nearest breeding populations are in the mountains of West Virginia (Buckelew and Hall 1994) and northern Virginia (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007).

Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) Uncommon; confirmed breeder. None of the early ornithologists reported this species from the Roan highlands. In fact, Rhoads (1895) indicated that it did not occur above 3000 ft (ca. 900 m) in Tennessee. Bruner and Field (1912) listed it as being found between 2000-5000 ft (ca. 600-1525 m) within the mountain region of western North Carolina. It is not known when yellowthroats first appeared on the summit of Roan, but they have occurred regularly since the late 1970s (Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). A one-day high count of six singing males from Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge Bald was noted on 29 June 1996 (pers. obs.) and a female carrying food was seen that same day. Stupka (1963) cited several summer records from the high elevations of the Smokies dating back into the 1930s.

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) Fairly common; confirmed breeder. Among the early explorers, this species was only noted by Bruner and Field (1912), who saw just one or two, and Ganier (1936), who reported two pairs, each tending young. Today they are considerably more numerous (Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.), perhaps benefiting from the recent intrusion of young deciduous growth into the spruce-fir forest. Recently fledged young have been seen several times in recent years (pers. obs.).

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) Rare; non-breeder. Apparently the only breeding season record is that of Potter and LeGrand (1980), who found one on 7 June 1979. This species occurs more often as a post-breeding disperser beginning in late July (pers. obs.). They typically breed below 5000 ft (ca. 1525 m) in this region (Knight 2008).

Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) Uncommon to fairly common; confirmed breeder. Rhoads (1895:491) did not find this species on the summit, curiously stating that "Roan Mountain Station...is its highest limit in the mountains," referring to the town (elevation 2600 ft, ca. 790 m). Bruner and Field (1912) reported it from the Canadian zone of area mountains, without providing any specifics. Ganier (1936) reported one pair and four other males along the summit. Recently this species has become much more prevalent (Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.) and numerous recently fledged young have been seen (pers. obs.).

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*) Occasional; non-breeder. None of the early workers reported this species at high elevation. Rhoads (1895) commented that it occurred throughout Tennessee except for the summit of Roan Mountain. Although common at low to mid elevations, three June sightings of individuals at Carver's Gap and a pair at 6200 ft (1890 m) in the spruce-fir forest edge on 7 June 1992 appear to be of visitors to the Canadian zone (pers. obs.). Similarly, Stupka (1963) reported a few summer records at comparable elevations in the Smokies, but with no indication of breeding.

Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) Occasional; confirmed breeder; recent. The comment by Rhoads (1895) that this species was found throughout Tennessee except for the summit of Roan Mountain was the only mention by any of the early ornithologists who visited this site. Today they are seen infrequently around the edges of the grassy balds of Roan, with summer sightings in five years between 1984 and 2008 from Carver's Gap to Engine Gap (pers. obs.; *Migrant* 64:71). A nest with three eggs was found on 9 July 2003 (Trently 2007; contra *Migrant* 74:134) on the side of Round Bald near Engine Gap at an elevation of about 5650 ft (ca. 1720 m). Although fairly common at elevations up to 4000 ft (ca. 1220 m; Knight 2008), apparently the only other high elevation report of Field Sparrow was 22 June 1940 at Andrews Bald (5800 ft, ca. 1770 m) in the Smokies (Stupka 1963).

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*) Occasional; suspected breeder. Apparently Ganier (1936) was the first to find this species on the grassy balds of Roan, with one bird in mid June 1936. Wetmore (1939) speculated, probably correctly, that individuals present in mid September 1937 were local breeders. Recent observers continue to see a few, although they are not present every year (pers. obs.) and breeding verification is apparently lacking. A high count of six birds was noted 13-20 June 1977 (*Migrant* 48:107). Vesper Sparrow has been confirmed as a breeder on Yellow Mountain Bald, North Carolina (Trently 2007), just 3 miles (5 km) east of Grassy Ridge Bald. Simpson (1978) suggested that this species preferred heavily grazed pasture land, such as on Yellow Mountain Bald, over undisturbed grassy balds.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) Uncommon to occasional; confirmed breeder. Ganier (1936:86) provided the first report of this species along the summit of the mountain, stating that they were "noted in five places, usually several hundred feet below the tops," and he also reported a nest containing five eggs on 22 June 1936 at 6000 ft (1830 m) near Roan High Knob. Wetmore (1939) considered five immatures collected here at 5900-6200 ft (1800 - 1890 m) in mid September, still in or just coming out of juvenile plumage, to likely represent local breeding. More recently, small numbers have been found most years since the 1970s, mainly around Carver's Gap (Phillips 1979, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Stupka (1963) reported nesting up to 6300 ft (1920 m) in the Smokies.

Dark-eyed Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) Common; confirmed breeder. This is the most numerous and widespread breeding bird on the mountain top, occupying all habitats (Sennett 1887, Rhoads 1895, Bruner and Field 1912, Ganier 1936, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980, Trently 2002, pers. obs.); nests and fledged young are frequently reported.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) Uncommon; suspected breeder. This species is an uncommon to fairly common summer resident of the northern hardwood forests of Roan, up to the highest elevations reached by that habitat (5400-5700 ft; ca. 1650-1740 m). Individuals or pairs may be seen along the

ecotone of that forest type and the balds or coniferous forest (Bruner and Field 1912, Ganier 1936, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). They are not known to nest in the spruce-fir, but occur there as post-breeding dispersers.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) Rare; non-breeder. A male seen on 29 June 1990 in the edge of the spruce-fir forest at 5800 ft (ca. 1770 m) was certainly a wandering or migrating individual (*Migrant* 62:28).

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) Uncommon; suspected breeder. This species has long been noted on the summit of Roan Mountain, but its breeding status remains uncertain. Rhoads (1895:491) called it "one of the few lowland birds that breed at the summit of Roan," but provided no evidence of nesting. Ganier (1936) found at least eight birds along the summit. Conversely, Stevenson and Stupka (1948) noted its absence on top of the mountain on 28-29 June 1946. Behrend (1963:39) found this species fairly numerous at 5500 - 6000 ft (ca. 1675-1830 m) in 1962, but "not in evidence" the following year. Recent accounts (Phillips 1979, Hale 1980, Potter and LeGrand 1980) did not include this species. However, Indigo Buntings were present most summers from 1981 to 2009 (pers. obs.), with a one-day high count of 10 singing males between Carver's Gap and Grassy Ridge Bald on 15 June 1982. In some years singing males were not encountered until late June or July despite coverage earlier in June (pers. obs.; see Burleigh 1941), possibly indicating an influx of failed breeders from other areas. Females have been seen only rarely on Roan; all were near singing males (pers. obs.):

- 27 June 1988, one near the Rhododendron Gardens;
- 24 July 1993, one along the road near Tollhouse Gap;
- 8 & 13 June, 7 July 2007, one at Carver's Gap;
- 7 July 2007, two near the Rhododendron Gardens;
- 3 July 2008, one near Engine Gap.

No evidence of breeding has been found on Roan Mountain beyond the presence of singing males and a few paired birds. McNair (1987) cited numerous reports of males, but just four breeding records above 5000 ft (1525 m) in the Southern Appalachians.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) Rare; visitor. Two grackles that flew through Carver's Gap on 12 June 1984 and one that did the same on 7 June 2000 were presumably just passing by (pers. obs.).

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) Rare; visitor. A fully flight-capable juvenile seen 31 July 2008 on Round Bald was presumed to be a dispersing individual (pers. obs.).

Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) Rare; non-breeder. Of the early bird surveys here, only Rhoads (1895:488) made mention of this species, stating that he "had

expected to find it on Roan Mountain but none were met with". The first summer reports occurred 1-15 July 1962 in or near the Rhododendron Gardens, with 1-3 singing males and one female-type (Behrend 1962). The next year one singing male was present from 12 May through 7 July in the same vicinity (Behrend 1963). No evidence of breeding was forthcoming either year. A singing male and a female-type were found 16-17 June 1977 near the Rhododendron Gardens (Phillips 1979). Apparently these are the only summer records in the mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Rottenborn and Brinkley (2007) cite two breeding records in Virginia: one in the northern mountains, but the other of adults feeding fledged young in June 1961 at Whitetop Mountain, just 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Roan. In West Virginia, they breed in the Allegheny Mountains (Buckelew and Hall 1994).

Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Occasional; suspected breeder. This nomadic species was first reported from Roan Mountain in 1886 by Sennett (1887:242), who "saw and heard several flocks" during his stay and collected a single specimen on 5 July near the Cloudland Hotel. It was also noted there by Rhoads (1895:488) who stated that "it undoubtedly breeds", although neither of these two observers cited any evidence of breeding. Crossbills were not mentioned for Roan Mountain by Bruner and Field (1912), Ganier (1936), or Wetmore (1939). Apparently the next summer report at the Roan was from 15 July through 9 September 1962, with 2-7 birds present, but with no indication of nesting (Behrend 1962). Since then the species has been seen sporadically, with sightings in 16 of 35 years (1963 - 1997, based on "Season" reports in *Migrant*), but recently it has been reported slightly more frequently (8 of 12 years; 1998-2009). Sightings have occurred every month of the year (Knight 2008). No nests have ever been found at Roan Mountain. A sighting of two adults feeding five young on 12 July 1986 at Roan (*Migrant* 57:115) strongly indicates nesting there. Although suggestive of breeding, four "juveniles approximately 10 weeks old" collected on 20 June 1984 (Rosenberg 1987:59) and a streaked immature among a group of five crossbills on 12 August 2003 at Carver's Gap (pers. obs.) could have dispersed a significant distance from their natal site. A one-day high count for summer of 80+ crossbills, all in one flock, was made on 16 June 2000 (pers. obs.).

McNair (1988) cites 24 breeding records from the Southern Appalachians, over half involving young with uncrossed bills, with dates ranging from February through October; besides spruce-fir forest, habitats have included pines at lower elevations

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus*) Occasional to uncommon; confirmed breeder; recent. The first summer reports on Roan Mountain occurred from 30 May through 15 July 1962, and again the following year from 6 June through 7 July, with 1-2+ birds present in the spruce-fir area (Behrend 1962, 1963). No evidence of breeding was observed either year. Subsequent summer records were sporadic, with sightings in 10 of 28 years (1964 - 1991, based on "Season" reports in *Migrant*), including

five consecutive years from 1973 through 1977. More recently, siskins were present each summer from 1992 through 2009, with numbers ranging from two to 40 birds per year. A nest of this species, with the female apparently incubating, was found near the Rhododendron Gardens at approximately 6150 ft (1875 m) elevation on 13 July 1993, with an adult feeding nestlings there on 1 August (Knight 1994). Other indications of breeding at Roan Mountain include:

- adults apparently feeding one fledged young on 4 July 1973 (*Migrant* 44:88);
- one gathering nest material on 15-16 July 1975 (McNair 1988);
- one gathering grass at Carver's Gap and flying off with it on 15 August 2003 (pers. obs.);
- a juvenile netted and banded at Carver's Gap on 21 September 2006 (pers. obs.).

McNair (1988) cites 11 probable or proven breeding records in the Appalachians south of Pennsylvania (mainly Tennessee and North Carolina). Siebenheller and Siebenheller (1992) and Simpson (1993) report subsequent siskin nest records from North Carolina, while separate nests found at about 4450 ft (ca. 1360 m) on the slope of Roan Mountain on 5 May 2007 (Trently and Biller 2008) and 12 May 2009 (pers. obs.) were the first two nests for Tennessee.

American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) Uncommon to fairly common; suspected breeder. Rhoads (1895), as well as Bruner and Field (1912), indicated that this species occurred only in the low to mid elevations. However, Ganier (1936) noted two on the summit, and Stevenson (1957) reported them up to 5850 ft (1780 m) on Roan. More recently, observers have reported small to moderate numbers during the summer (Phillips 1979, Potter and LeGrand 1980, pers. obs.). Confirmed breeding evidence apparently is lacking for the highlands here, but Burleigh (1941) found a nest at 5800 ft (ca. 1770 m) on Mt. Mitchell.

SUMMARY

The Roan Mountain highlands host a dynamic summer avifauna. At least five northern species have expanded their breeding ranges southward in the Appalachians to Roan Mountain or beyond in the last few decades (Alder Flycatcher, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes, Magnolia and Yellow-rumped Warblers). A few species generally found in the low to mid elevations have extended their breeding ranges upward (e.g., Mourning Dove, Tree Swallow, and Brown Thrasher). At least two species appear to have increased in abundance due to deciduous intrusion into forest gaps within the spruce-fir (Canada Warbler and Eastern Towhee), presumably at the expense of spruce-fir specialists (e.g., Golden-crowned Kinglet). In contrast to the Smokies, Roan Mountain lacks breeding populations of three warblers (Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Blackburnian) in the spruce-fir forest, likely related to the structure and composition of that second-growth forest. Two species of Cardueline finches with limited breeding ranges in the Southern Appalachians (Red Crossbill and Pine Siskin) are confirmed or suspected breeders on Roan.

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MINUTES OF THE TOS 2009 SPRING MEETING
2 MAY 2009
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Tennessee Ornithological Society's (TOS) 2009 Spring Meeting was hosted by the Nashville Chapter in Nashville, Tennessee on 1-3 May. Field trips were offered to Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Shelby Bottoms, Beaman Park, and Bell's Bend Park.

The Directors' Meeting was called to order by President Richard Connors at 3:15 p.m. Secretary Laura McCall announced that a quorum had been met. The minutes from the Fall 2008 Meeting, held 8 November 2008, were approved with amendments.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Richard noted that it had been a busy fall and winter. He worked with the Nominating Committee and the Conservation Policy Committee on some of the issues that will come up in the committee reports. He commented on two threads on the TN-Birds listserv, one on Northern Bobwhite population declines, and the other on the introduction of Tennessee Wildlife Federation's new hummingbird license plate. In order to give TOS a voice on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, the governing body of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), TOS endeavored to sponsor a candidate for the seat from Williamson County. TOS's choice for the position, Dorie Bowles, was not ultimately chosen, but it appears that the new appointee, Julie Schuster, may also be a good choice. TOS hosted a Winter Meeting, held January 23-25 at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, which was attended by about 30 members. Lastly, Richard reported that he had presented the TOS resolution of appreciation to Gary Myers honoring him for his work.

MIDDLE TN VICE PRESIDENT (MELINDA WELTON): No report.

WEST TN VICE PRESIDENT (DICK PRESTON): Dick began by giving the Curator/Website Report for Chuck Nicholson, who could not be at the meeting. Chuck encourages smaller chapters to send him information, so he can set up pages for each chapter on the TOS website, and write-ups on local birding hotspots are also needed. If people will just send the information to Chuck, he will put it all together. Chuck also needs updated contact information and names of new chapter officers so he can update chapter information.

Dick announced that the Bristol Bird Club (BBC) had contacted him about hosting a joint Virginia/Tennessee Spring Meeting. BBC has offered to do all the work, but it might require changing the meeting rotation cycle. We would share a speaker and field trips, and this would allow us to have a bigger meeting in a great location. It was agreed that this seemed like a good opportunity, and that changing the meeting rotation would not be a big concern. Richard suggested having the 2010 Spring Meeting, which is due to be in East Tennessee, in Knoxville, and the 2011

Spring Meeting could be scheduled to be a joint meeting with the Virginia Society of Ornithology in Bristol.

EAST TN VICE PRESIDENT (RACK CROSS): No report.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE: No reports.

SECRETARY (LAURA McCALL): No report.

TREASURER (MAC McWHIRTER): Mac McWhirter presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2008. With every business and family personally experiencing the train wreck in the economy over the past nine months, TOS has fortunately escaped comparatively well due to our asset allocation strategy. The market value of our investments at 30 December 2008 was $194,135. Overall, our investment return for 2008 was down 14.2%, or $32,170, compared to negative 37% for the Standard & Poor's 500 benchmark. Since October 2007, the S&P 500 is down 45%. The changeover of investment funds by the Finance Committee from Morgan Stanley to Vanguard two years ago was a timely decision. The fund that TOS previously used for short-term bond allocation, the MS Limited Duration Fund, was down 21.2% for 2008 versus our current bond allocation with Vanguard, which provided a positive return of 2.8%. Had we still been in our prior allocation, the return for 2008 would have had a negative return of approximately 30%, or double the loss sustained over 2008 by the allocation with Vanguard. We are currently allocated 29% in stocks and 71% in bonds and money market funds.

Operationally, the Society operated without any surprises, with total revenue from dues and memberships amounting to $12,624 and operating expenses of $17,779. We are again funding annual Conservation and Research Grants in the amount of $3,000 after a one-year postponement. Additionally, the Society funded $500 to the Natural Areas Association in honor of Gary Myers retirement from TWRA and $600 to the MoSI program of the Institute for Bird Populations.

Membership for 2008 stood at 732 memberships, a decline from the 2007 level of 771. There is concern that renewals of members may suffer over 2009 due to the recession's effect on personal finances of so many of our members.

MIGRANT: Editor Chris Welsh reported that he really wants to catch up the publications, and that he is hoping to publish all of 2008 in a single issue, which would save money. He urged people to submit articles for publication.

TENNESSEE WARBLER: Editor Theresa Graham reported that the deadline for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* would be June 30.

Richard asked about progress being made to deliver the *Warbler* newsletter electronically, as discussed at the previous two meetings. Mac indicated that it was much more complicated than originally anticipated, and that it would take a lot of database management to make it successful. TOS lacks email addresses for many members, and keeping track of which email addresses are current, as well as who gets a paper copy and who receives the electronic version, would be very time-consuming. It was suggested that the Publications Committee look into how this could be simplified and streamlined to make it possible.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Committee member Linda Kelly reported the 2009 slate of officers to be elected at the general membership meeting. The Committee's nominations were as follows: President – Dick Preston; East TN Vice President – Rack Cross; Middle TN Vice President – Melinda Welton; West Tennessee Vice President – Forrest Priddy; Secretary – Laura McCall; Treasurer – N.P. (Mac) McWhirter; *Migrant* Editor – Chris Welsh.

TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (TBRC): Dean Edwards, TBRC Secretary, reported that the Committee is currently reviewing 22 reports. Green Violet Ear and Chestnut-collared Longspur, if accepted, will be added to the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee. The Committee is reviewing a report of Trumpeter Swan and considering changing this species' status from "extirpated" to "accidental." A 1974 report of Masked Duck has been reevaluated, and it may be removed from the State List. Also being considered are reports of Snowy Owl and Black-legged Kittiwake.

Current members of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee are Dean Edwards (Secretary), Kevin Calhoon, Mark Greene, John Henderson, Don Miller, Jan Shaw, and Phillip Casteel (alternate).

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: No report.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH FUNDING COMMITTEE: No report.

CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE (CPC): Melinda Welton, Co-chair of the Conservation Policy Committee, presented a report of the Committee's recent activities:

State Legislation/ State and Local Action

Calls and emails were sent on behalf of TOS to the 10 members of the TN House Environment Subcommittee:

1. in support of the Governor's Energy Bill,
2. in opposition to the Coal Gasification Bill,
3. in opposition to HB1615 that would weaken protections to headwater streams and rivers,
4. in opposition to HB1616 that would weaken clean water laws, and
5. in support of the Scenic Vista Protection Bill, which would have protected Tennessee's mountains from mountaintop mining. This bill failed to make it out of the subcommittee.

TOS endorsed the Tennessee Beverage Container Recycling Act (also known as the Bottle Bill), which would have placed a refundable deposit on beverage containers. The bill did not pass but will be reintroduced in January 2010.

TOS made a donation to the Gary Myers Fishing Fund, which will provide access for fishermen as well as help protect streams valuable to many birds.

Consideration was given to supporting a Whooping or Sandhill Crane license plate for funding of TWRA's Nongame program. However, it was decided that this would likely compete with the current Bluebird Plate, which has a higher yield than the newer plate would be allowed, and would therefore not result in a net gain for nongame funding.

TOS endorsed Dorie Bolze, Executive Director of the Harpeth River Watershed Association, for an appointment to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission.

TOS presented a Resolution of Appreciation to retiring TWRA Executive Director Gary Myers for his 30 years of service.

Federal Legislation/Action

TOS signed on to the Endangered Species Coalition letter, supporting quick action by the Obama Administration to restore needed Endangered Species protections.

TOS sent letters to Senators Alexander and Corker in support of the Appalachian Restoration Act, which would prohibit the dumping of mountaintop mining wastes into streams and rivers.

TOS prepared a letter to Congressman Duncan in support of adding several hundred acres for wilderness designation in the Cherokee National Forest. However, at the request of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, TOS has postponed sending the letter until a more strategic time.

TOS signed on to a Bird Conservation Alliance letter to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar requesting that he reverse the previous administration's actions regarding the Western Oregon Plan Revisions and the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.

TOS sent a letter endorsing the 250-mile Kittatinny-Shawagunk National Raptor Migration Corridor to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

TOS sent a letter to the Office of Surface Mining indicating TOS's interest in reviewing the National Coal Corporation's permit application for mining a portion of Buffalo Mountain in Anderson County, which lies within the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area.

Other CPC Business

Two replacements were selected for the six-person Conservation Policy Committee. Kevin Calhoon of Chattanooga will replace David Vogt, and Gregg Elliott of Memphis will replace Van Harris. Other committee members are Melinda Welton and Bob Hatcher (co-chairs), Dick Preston, and Chuck Nicholson.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report.

COLLATERAL MATERIALS: Donna Ward announced that the TOS patches and decals, along with copies of J. Robinson's Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee, were available for sale at the back table.

TN-BIRD: No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Hiwassee Crane Festival – Richard reported that there had not been a lot of productive conversations with TWRA on this festival. The Birchwood School is hosting a festival 14 November, and the Chattanooga TOS will help with this event; TWRA will have an event in December. TWRA is not growing corn on the property,

but it will be growing corn in different areas. Richard said David Aborn, who is a committee member on the Flyway Council, had indicated to him that it will be up to the individual states to implement hunting.

NEW BUSINESS

Funding for Wildlife – Ron Hoff made a plea for members and chapters to contribute to conservation efforts. He suggested sponsoring a mile for Operation Migration (this would cost $200/mile) and also trying to coordinate our clout with other ornithological groups. Melinda said that our membership in the Bird Conservation Alliance actually does give us this clout. Ron also spoke of Optics for the Tropics, which is a 501c(3) organization that provides binoculars for researchers in South America. A $100 donation buys a pair of binoculars. Mac suggested using the funds we had allocated last year for MoSI stations (as this project is wrapping up) and Gary Myers Fund to support these causes. He made a motion to donate $200 for Optics for the Tropics and $200 to sponsor a mile for Operation Migration. The motion passed unanimously.

Various means of funding non-game wildlife programs in our own state were also discussed. There is currently not a dedicated funding stream (beyond the Watchable Wildlife plates) for Nongame Programs in TWRA, and TWRA feels that the birding community should be helping to financially support nongame management. While no real solutions were discovered, it was decided that TOS members should be encouraged to buy Federal Duck Stamps, which fund the National Wildlife Refuges and support both game and nongame species. Donna Ward will have these for sale at the next Spring Meeting, along with other collateral materials.

Conservation Section in *Warbler* – Ron inquired whether it would be possible to have a conservation section in the *Warbler*. Ginger Goolsby agreed, saying that someone needs to provide a write-up on the projects we support so that members can see where the money is going and appreciate the need to support conservation efforts.

Constitution Bylaws Committee – Richard announced that he needs volunteers to serve on a committee to review the TOS constitution bylaws. Anyone who is interested should contact Richard.

Fall 2009 Meeting – A date and location was discussed for the Fall 2009 Meeting and Symposium. It was decided to have the meeting the first weekend in November (6-8 November), with Columbia as the location, as long as the Columbia chapter is willing to host it.

Spring 2010 Meeting – David Trently volunteered to have the Knoxville Chapter host the next Spring Meeting. Steve Hilty will be the speaker. The date will be the first weekend in May.

Spring 2011 Meeting – As discussed earlier, the possibility of a joint meeting with the Virginia Society of Ornithology, to be held in Bristol in the Spring of 2011, will be explored.

State Environmental Organizations – The question was raised about why we are not affiliates of Tennessee Conservation Voters or Tennessee Environmental Council. It was explained that the cost of membership has been prohibitive, and given the current financial situation, it still does not seem feasible.

Watchable Wildlife Website – State Ornithologist Scott Somershoe told of his work to create a Watchable Wildlife Website that would serve as a guide to Tennessee's wildlife, especially birds, and showcase places people can go to watch wildlife. Another benefit of the website will be the ability to make a secure donation to the Watchable Wildlife Fund, and there will also be a store where people can purchase Watchable Wildlife merchandise, such as t-shirts and hats. He hopes to launch this soon, hopefully in about six weeks.

TOS Annual Business Meeting

The TOS Annual Business Meeting was held at Crievewood United Methodist Church in Nashville. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 by TOS President Richard Connors, who thanked Nashville TOS President Amy Potter and all the members of NTOS who worked hard to make the meeting a success.

The highlights of the Board of Directors' meeting were shared with the membership. Treasurer Mac McWhirter gave a summary of the state of TOS's financial standing. The nominating committee presented their recommendations for officers: President – Dick Preston; Vice President (East TN) – Rack Cross; Vice President (Middle TN) – Melinda Welton; Vice President (West TN) – Forrest Priddy; Secretary – Laura McCall; Treasurer – MacMcWhirter; and *Migrant* Editor – Chris Welsh. The motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers, and the motion passed unanimously.

Richard informed the membership of the Board of Directors' decision to support Optics for the Tropics and Operation Migration, each in the amount of $200.

The dates and locations for the Fall 2009, Spring 2010, and Spring 2011 meetings were discussed.

Distinguished Service Awards – Polly Rooker presented a distinguished service award to Donette Sellers of Lawrenceburg. Danny Gaddy presented a distinguished service award to Wallace Coffey of Bristol. The nominations will appear in the *Tennessee Warbler*.

Richard handed the gavel to incoming President Dick Preston, who thanked NTOS and everyone who made the weekend possible. Dick also thanked Richard for his two years as president. The meeting adjourned at 7:15.

The meeting was followed by a presentation by retired TWRA Executive Director Gary Myers, who spoke on his experience with the wildlife conservation movement and the current state of bird conservation at the state and national level.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Jennings McCall, Secretary

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: DONETTE SELLERS

Donette Sellers became interested in birds thanks to her mother. When she was very small, she watched her mother feed bread crumbs to a cardinal nesting outside the window, and she was hooked. That first simple introduction to the beauty of birds spawned a lifetime of interest and action that has greatly benefitted the Tennessee birding community.

Donette has been birding her entire life and has participated in many of the major birding events in Tennessee: the USFWS Breeding Bird Surveys, Audubon Christmas bird counts, the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas (1986-1991), and more recently TWRA's Breeding Bird Surveys (1992-2000). Her work with the TWRA surveys included seven grueling years on the Laurel Hills Wildlife Management Area in Lawrence County with friend Jane Horn.

In addition to her birding activities, Donette has been active in the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS), serving as President of the Buffalo River chapter for over 20 years. Throughout the years she has and continues to present numerous bird programs to school and local garden clubs in her area. Just as her interest was sparked by watching her mother feed the cardinal, Donette spent many hours with her own daughter on their porch looking at birds and trying to identify them in their *Golden Guide for Birds*.

In addition to birds, Donette has a passion for flowers and is a member of a local garden club. Rounding out her interests is her active membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

For her many years of faithful service and her countless contributions to the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and to Tennessee outdoors in general, Donette Sellers has been awarded the TOS Distinguished Service Award.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: J. WALLACE COFFEY

J. Wallace Coffey received the Tennessee Ornithological Society's (TOS) Distinguished Service Award at the 2009 Spring Meeting.

Wallace first participated in a TOS state meeting in 1965 at the Golden Anniversary of the society in Nashville. He has been a member of the Stephen M. Russell chapter and TOS for more than 50 years. Over the years he has been a speaker at every TOS chapter in East Tennessee.

Wallace has been active in TOS in numerous capacities. From 1964 thru 1966 he was statewide Season Report Editor for *The Migrant*, and from 1966-1968 was the Assistant Editor. He served as Vice-President of TOS from 1967-1969 and again from 1991-1993. During the period from 1992-1996 he was the Editor of *The Migrant*, and he is currently a member of the TOS Publications Committee.

He has further demonstrated his devotion to birds and birding by chairing and co-coordinating the TOS Shady Valley Foray in May 1976, serving as a TOS Conservation Committee member from 1977-2004, and serving as a TOS Sandhill Crane Working Group member in 2008-2009.

Perhaps his most notable contribution to the Tennessee birding community stems from his activities facilitating communication among birders via the internet. He created and moderated Valley Birds Net, the nation's first major regional internet birding listserve from 1995-1999, and in October 1995, assisted by Alice Kirby, he designed and created the TOS`s first web site. In December 1999 he created Tn-Birds Net, which he later turned over to TOS. The TN-Birds listserv has become a major avenue for the reporting of bird sightings across the state. He continues as moderator today.

Over the years Wallace has mentored numerous members of TOS, as he was mentored by Albert F. Ganier, Dr. Lee R. Herndon and Kenneth R. Dubke. Several of his students now hold high profile jobs in other states but are still members of TOS. Dr. Charles R. Smith of Cornell University was the first technical editor of Cornell`s *Living Bird* magazine and a leader in the New York Federation of Bird Clubs. Another is Dr. Andrew W. Jones, the William A. and Nancy R. Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology and Head of Department of Ornithology, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. His mentoring of these men is credited by both as a major reason for their success today. Wallace continues today to mentor members of the Stephen M. Russell chapter and plays a leading role in the day-to-day operations of the club.

It would take many more pages to list everything he has done for TOS, the Virginia Society of Ornithology, the Kentucky Ornithological Society, and other state organizations as well as federal and local groups. His 50 years of service to mankind is a fabulous testament to his character, and he is most deserving of the Distinguished Service Award.

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2009 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Ron Hoff
282 Hackworth Ln.
Clinton, TN 37716

This year this summary reports on *all* of the Tennessee Fall Bird Counts, including traditional Fall Counts *and* the Fall North American Migration Counts (NAMC - typically held on the 3rd Saturday in September). This year 187 observers on 11 counts worked 450 party hours to find 57,171 individuals representing 183 species (Table 1). The weather was mixed this year with high winds affecting the count in Nashville and significant rain affecting the counts in Elizabethton and Greeneville. Most of the other counts experienced light winds and a few had drizzly conditions for at least part of the day. Rainfall in Tennessee this year has been running about 10 inches above normal. Temperatures ranged from a chilly 46 on the White County count to a comfortable 80 in Blount and Davidson counties.

Numerous count highlights included Red-breasted Merganser, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Least Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Least and Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Purple Martin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Veery, 30 species of warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Dickcissel, Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. Species missed this year but usually found on Fall counts included Merlin, American Woodcock, Warbling Vireo, Bank Swallow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Loggerhead Shrike was only found on 2 of the 11 counts, indicating a continuing downward trend for this species.

COUNTY SUMMARIES

(FW = feeder watcher)

Blount County – 19 September; 0600-2010. Weather: light fog early, then sunny and breezy along with overcast periods with some rain; 70-80° F. Areas covered included Alcoa, Alcoa duck pond, Alcoa Marsh, Alcoa/Maryville greenway, Cades Cove, Chilhowee Dam, Disco Loop Rd., Eastern Blount Co., Foothills Parkway, Friendsville, Gravelly Hills area, Kyker Bottoms, Louisville, Louisville Point Park, Maryville, Maryville College Woods, Old Walland Highway, Phelps' Dairy Farm, Roy Goddard Lane, Sevierville Road, Tapoca Wildlife Preserve, Townsend, US Highway 129, US Highway 321, White's Mill Refuge, and Woodhaven subdivision. Count highlights included Red-breasted Merganser, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bald Eagle, Greater Yellowlegs, Common Nighthawk, Philadelphia Vireo, Purple Martin, Brown-headed Nuthatch, American Pipit, Blue-winged and Orange-crowned warblers, and Rusty Blackbird. Observers: Jean J. Alexander (compiler: 3908 Riverview Dr., Maryville, TN 37804; jjadmj@infionline.net), Kathy L. Bivens, Fae Burkhart, Nan and Joe Cologgi, Marion D. and Tom E. Fitzgerald, Carol P. Gobert, Jim Hand, Kim J. and Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe, Bob Howdeshell, James

R. Human, David M. Johnson, Mary Laura Koella, Julie Niles, Karen J. Petry, Ann D. Tallent, and June D. Welch.

Davidson County – 19 September; 0700-1100. Weather: cloudy to clear and very humid: 71-80° F. Count highlights included Cooper's Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, and Blue-winged Warbler. Observers: Scott Block, Gary Casey, Phillip Casteel, Bob Ingle, Linda V. Kelly (compiler: 927 Percy Warner Blvd., Nashville, TN 37205; likebird@bellsouth.net), Ed Schneider, Jan Shaw, and Mary Zimmerman.

Elizabethton – 26 September; 0500-1900. Weather: partly cloudy to overcast with a few sprinkles, turning into a steady, moderate rain (2+ inches in most areas) with localized flooding in the afternoon; winds were variable at 5-15 mph (mostly in the mountains); 56-68° F. This was the 40th consecutive Fall Count at Elizabethton. The count area includes Carter County and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington Counties. The average number of species for this count for the last 25 years is 124, and the all-time high count was 137 in 1993. Eurasian Collared-Dove was a new species for this count. Other count highlights included Ring-necked Duck (1 of 2 that summered), Northern Goshawk (4th record), Bald Eagle, Virginia Rail (4th record), Semipalmated Plover (2nd record in last 17 years), Red-headed Woodpecker, 5 species of vireos, Marsh Wren, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Bobolink. Some notable misses were undoubtedly due to the heavy rain, but other species are disappearing from the count area. Misses included Ruffed Grouse (missed for only the 3rd time since 1990), Northern Bobwhite (missed for the 8th straight year and has been found only 3 times in the last 16 years), Common Nighthawk (3rd miss since 1975; probably due to rain), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (missed 5 times in last 20 years), Loggerhead Shrike (missed 11 of last 16 years), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (first miss EVER on this count), and Nashville Warbler (3rd miss in last 16 years). Observers: Fred Alsop, Darla Anderson, Jim Anderson, James Anderson, Hannah Baker, Emily and Paul Bayes, Jerry Bevens, Rob Biller, Gary Cooper, Gil Derouen, Dianne Draper, Glen Eller, Don Holt, Jennifer Kennedy, Rick Knight (compiler: 804 N. Hills Dr., Johnson City, TN 37604; rknight8@earthlink.net), Roy Knispel, Richard Lewis, Connie McCall, Larry McDaniel, Joe McGuiness, Tom McNeil, Eric and Kathy Noblet, Brookie and Jean Potter, Michele Sparks, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, David Thometz, John Tolejko, Gary Wallace, and Mary Anna Wheat.

Greeneville – 26 September; 0600-2100. Weather: rain most of the day with gusting winds; 61-69° F. Count highlights included Cattle Egret, Osprey, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Marsh Wren, Wood Thrush, and Golden-winged Warbler. Observers: Ben, Cindi, Mark, Phine, and Orland Britton, Jim Helbert, Jim Holt (compiler-311 Colonial Circle, Greeneville, TN 37745; jimbouh@comcast.net), Nata Jackson, Gwen Lilley, Alice Loftin, Don Miller, Jean Obrist, JoAnn and Larry Routledge, and Teresa Smith.

Knoxville – 27 September; 0000-0015; 0550-1915. Weather: Partly cloudy with no rain and winds SW 0-10 mph on count day, but a cold front with 3 inches of rain the day before and rain 10 of the previous 12 days; 60-75° F. Count highlights included Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Blue-winged, Golden-winged & Orange-crowned warblers, and Orchard Oriole. Notable misses included Northern Bobwhite and Baltimore Oriole. Observers: Jean Alexander, Jennifer Anderson, Mark Armstrong, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Emily and Than Boves, Matt Brooks, David Buehler, Howard Chitwood, Gail and Steve Clendenen, Amber Edwards, K. Dean Edwards (compiler: 1615 Meadow Chase Ln., Knoxville, TN 37931; kde@utk.edu), Chuck Estes, Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Vickie Henderson, Angela Hoffman, Jim Human, David Johnson, Tony King, Leigh and Robert Loveday, Ed Manous, Seth McConchie, Brenda and Denny McMahan, Mike Nelson, Charles P. Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Ana Raymundo, Wayne Schacher, Frank Spilker, Beth Summer, David Trently, June Welch, Chris and Deb Welsh, Deborah Williams, Shane Williams, and Robert Wittig.

Montgomery County – 20 September; 0700-1215. Weather: mostly sunny with a few clouds; 61-76° F. The count area was entirely on Fort Campbell grounds. Notable species found included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Orange-crowned & Kentucky warblers, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Observers were Daniel Moss (compiler: dmoss5@earthlink.net) and Dawn York.

Nashville – 3 October; 0515-1915. Weather: clear with winds S 10-20 mph; 47-71° F. The total of 111 species found this year was 10 species less than last year, but this may have been due in part to high winds and sunny conditions on count day. Unusual species found included Cattle Egret, Bald Eagle, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Acadian, Least, & Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Orange-crowned & Wilson's warblers, and White-crowned Sparrow. Observers: Andrew Bishop, Sandy Bivens, Kevin Bowden, Trae Bradfield, Yulanda Brown, David and Jean Buchanan, Marilyn Burgess, Ed Byrne, Phillip Casteel, Richard Connors, Jerry Drewry, John Froeschauer, Deb and Larry Gentry, Ed Gleaves, Mark Hackney, Barbara Harris, Susan Hollyday, Linda Kelly, Gail Lavely, Judith Luna, Diana McClusky, Irene Perry, Amy Potter, Sarah Scott, Jan Shaw (compiler-5019 Timberhill Dr., Nashville, TN 37211; JanKShaw@aol.com), Kathy Shaw, Shelia Shay, Danny Shelton, Chris Sloan, Joe Stone, Sabin Thompson, Linn Ann Welch, Terry Witt, and Mary Zimmerman.

Putnam County – 19 September; 0420-1900. Weather: overcast and mostly cloudy all day; winds 0-10 mph; 67-79° F. This 10th consecutive Fall Bird Count followed a week of heavy rain (6-10"). Some results, such as high numbers of Green Herons and the Least Bittern, may have been affected by the weather. Least Bittern (new late departure date and first county record in 15 years), Peregrine Falcon (this immature was just the 4th record for the county and first record in exactly 17 years), Ring-billed Gull, American Pipit (new early fall arrival date), and Dickcissel (new

late fall departure date) were all recorded for the first time on this count. Totals for Killdeer, Downy Woodpecker (tie), Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird, and Magnolia Warbler, represented all-time high counts or tied for all-time high counts for Putnam County. Other count highlights included Barn Owl, Whip-poor-will, Horned Lark, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Wilson's & Canada warblers. Observers: Betty J. Bright (FW), Douglas A. Downs, Bettie Doyle (FW), Ginger K. Ensor (FW), Judy C. Fuson, Michael J. Hawkins, Linda Henderson, Edmund K. LeGrand, Handley "Ozzie" Oswalt (FW), Susan E. Pirolo, Michele Ramsey (FW), Thomas M. Saya, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman (compiler: 2675 Lakeland Dr., Cookeville, TN 38506; sstedman@tntech.edu), and Winston A. Walden.

Sevier County – 19 September; 0815-1615. Weather: mostly cloudy in the morning turning overcast in the afternoon; mid-70s. Count highlights included Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, and Northern Waterthrush. Observers: Susan Hoyle (compiler: P. O. Box 11752, Knoxville, TN 37939; hoyle@eecs.utk.edu), Kris Johnson, and Martha Rudolph.

Shelby County – 19 September; no times given. Weather: overcast all day with drizzle in the morning and mist in the afternoon. Many count highlights included Cattle Egret, Mississippi Kite, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, American Golden-Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, Least Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, 151 Common Nighthawks, Loggerhead Shrike, House Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole. Observers: David Blaylock, Carolyn Bullock, Judy Dorsey, Margaret Jefferson, Lisa Jorgensen, Pam Key, Jo Robinson, Allen Sparks, Ed Thomas, Martha Waldron, Jay Walko, and Barbara Wilson. Non-participating compiler: Dick Preston, 261 Sassafras Circle, Munford, TN 38058; dickpreston@bigriver.net.

White County – 4 October; 0400-1845. Weather: clear all day; winds 0-10 mph; 46-72° F. This was the sixth consecutive Fall Bird Count for White Co. Some public sites that were included in the coverage were the Bridgestone / Firestone Centennial Wilderness and parts of Rock Island State Park. Count highlights included American Black Duck, Sora, Loggerhead Shrike, Horned Lark, Sedge and Marsh wrens, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Observers: Douglas A. Downs (compiler: 403 Gillen Dr., Sparta, TN 38583; douglas_downs@hotmail.com), George T. Elrod (FW), Nancy S. Layzer, Edmund K. LeGrand, Peter Li, Michael P. O'Rourke, Thomas M. Saya, Barbara H. and Stephen J. Stedman, and Winston A. Walden.

Wilson County – 10 October; 0700-1600. Weather: some misting in the morning, clearing later with a slight wind; 55-60° F. The compiler stated that they did not have access to the Boxwell Boy Scout Camp, thereby keeping waterbird numbers low. Nice flocks of blackbirds were seen at Hickory Flats wildlife area. Count highlights included 18 Great Egrets, Blue-winged Teal, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Observers; Jane Farris (FW), Mildred Gaston (FW), Ann and Bernard Holliday, Ramona See, Grace Speck (FW), and Roy Turrentine (compiler: 339 Rippy Ridge Rd., Normandy, TN 37360; roymel@cafes.net).

Table 1. Results of the 2009 Tennessee Fall Bird Counts
(includes both traditional fall counts and fall North American migration counts)

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Canada Goose	229	22	676	166	344	348	292	20	239	131	90	2557
Wood Duck	49	-	43	22	14	25	51	-	10	62	4	280
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Black Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mallard	131	9	411	100	156	103	34	7	91	20	20	1082
Blue-winged Teal	11	-	7	23	7	7	24	-	26	4	2	111
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-breasted Merganser	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wild Turkey	20	-	84	77	1	98	72	-	-	29	-	381
Northern Bobwhite	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	4
Pied-billed Grebe	1	-	3	2	2	12	9	-	-	1	6	36
Double-crested Cormorant	1	-	3	-	9	119	7	-	22	2	10	173
Least Bittern	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Great Blue Heron	11	2	39	15	24	51	20	2	15	14	10	203
Great Egret	2	-	8	2	2	15	2	-	7	7	18	63
Cattle Egret	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	7
Green Heron	12	2	7	13	9	1	21	2	1	2	-	70
Black-crowned Night-Heron	3	-	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	2	12
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Vulture	-	-	12	4	25	191	10	-	2	67	44	355

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Turkey Vulture	40	-	102	8	29	126	62	4	9	143	6	529
Osprey	-	1	9	1	4	4	3	-	-	-	-	22
Mississippi Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-		12
Bald Eagle	1	-	5	-	1	1		-	1	-	-	9
Northern Harrier	-	-	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	1	-	10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	5	-	4	4	2	-	-	2		17
Cooper's Hawk	6	1	11	1	6	12	7	-	3	3	1	51
Northern Goshawk	-		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	-	1		-		-		-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	1		1	10	11	8	-	8	8	1	52
Broad-winged Hawk	-		2	-	91	-	1	1	-	1	-	96
Red-tailed Hawk	6	1	9	3	25	25	6	-	11	19	1	106
American Kestrel	3	-	8	11	2	17	30	-	3	52	2	128
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	-	5
Virginia Rail	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		-			1
Sora	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
American Coot				-	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	31
American Golden-Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Semipalmated Plover			1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Killdeer	27	-	67	37	140	76	164	7	108	157	5	788
Black-necked Stilt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		-	1
Spotted Sandpiper	-	-	6	-	-		1	-	-	1	-	8
Solitary Sandpiper	1		3	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	10
Greater Yellowlegs	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	-	-	-		-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper	-		-	-	-	35	-	-	5	-	-	40
Least Sandpiper	9	-	7	-	5	51	-	-	450	1	-	523
Peep sp	-	-	-	-	-	-	3			1		4
Pectoral Sandpiper			1		8	1	-	-	5	-	-	15
Stilt Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Wilson's Snipe	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	7
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	6
Least Tern	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Rock Pigeon	239	5	390	87	113	99	139	42	458	97	30	1699
Eurasian Collared-Dove	-	-	2	7	-	1	1	-	24	19	1	55
Mourning Dove	384	7	456	237	403	113	583	14	401	244	17	2859
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	4	-	-	9
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Barn Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	3	-	16	1	2	4	17	-	-	29	-	72
Great Horned Owl	3	-	1	-	1	6	5	-	-	10	-	26
Barred Owl	1	-	1	1	4	6	11	-	3	7	-	34
Common Nighthawk	1	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	151	-	-	158
Whip-poor-will	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Chimney Swift	125	53	622	27	92	104	103	9	115	46	-	1296
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	50	5	40	21	36	11	99	6	40	6	-	314
Belted Kingfisher	14	3	33	10	13	22	13	2	3	10	3	126
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	1	5	1	2	14	-	16	5	4	48
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	2	34	28	81	90	104	3	43	80	10	516
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	1	-	7
Downy Woodpecker	28	2	27	8	37	53	68	3	31	24	6	287
Hairy Woodpecker	6	1	6	2	3	7	19	1	3	6	-	54
Northern Flicker	14	3	29	11	34	39	47	1	4	52	4	238
Pileated Woodpecker	17	-	16	7	7	14	34	4	12	24	-	135
Eastern Wood-Pewee	18	17	8	1	38	17	59	-	24	20	2	204
Acadian Flycatcher	-	1	-	-	-	1	6	-	17	-	-	25
Least Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Empidonax sp.	-	-	1	-	5	3	1	-	-	1	-	11
Eastern Phoebe	24	1	61	19	40	35	127	-	4	54	4	369
Great Crested Flycatcher	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	1	-	8

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Eastern Kingbird	1	-	1	1	2	-	6	-	2	-	-	13
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	-	5
White-eyed Vireo	8	12	2	-	11	8	41	1	76	2	-	161
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	-	1	-	2	3	18	-	7	2	-	34
Blue-headed Vireo	-	-	11	-	1	2	1	2	-	5	-	22
Philadelphia Vireo	1	-	1	-	2	10	-	-	2	-	-	16
Red-eyed Vireo	6	2	8	-	16	1	16	1	48	1	-	99
Blue Jay	138	10	361	148	611	385	346	24	64	770	101	2958
American Crow	184	46	885	119	350	260	493	15	52	713	16	3133
Fish Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Common Raven	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Horned Lark	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
Purple Martin	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tree Swallow	153	-	55	153	18	5	-	-	-	83	-	467
N. Rough-winged Swallow	-	-	-	99	1	10	-	-	42	2	200	354
Barn Swallow	28	2	3	6	21	2	14	-	3	-	-	79
Carolina Chickadee	103	6	96	36	160	174	144	6	41	115	26	907
Tufted Titmouse	55	1	74	30	95	101	148	3	48	173	16	744
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	13	1	17	5	29	39	75	1	17	36	2	235
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2	-	-	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	11
Carolina Wren	98	7	107	42	195	113	242	11	77	129	10	1031
House Wren	2	2	2	-	3	2	5	1	1	2	-	20
Winter Wren	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sedge Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Marsh Wren	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	3	5	1	-	-	1	-	10
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	3	3	-	3	2	14	1	5	3	-	35

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Eastern Bluebird	47	3	129	87	124	152	573	8	35	355	19	1532
Veery	-	-	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	7	-	7	1	1	-	-	4	-	20
Swainson's Thrush	13	6	50	5	104	14	8	-	7	9	-	216
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Wood Thrush	3	-	5	1	8	-	11	-	3	2	-	33
American Robin	69	33	430	42	157	150	58	-	12	86	6	1043
Gray Catbird	30	16	22	1	77	23	29	3	6	11	-	218
Northern Mockingbird	46	2	40	63	139	127	148	8	29	142	13	757
Brown Thrasher	20	32	7	1	50	17	28	-	6	18	1	180
European Starling	606	4	1340	531	3486	730	6268	150	764	2205	250	16334
American Pipit	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Cedar Waxwing	11	3	81	1	38	102	66	1	-	5	-	308
Blue-winged Warbler	1	2	-	-	3	-	2	-	2	-	-	10
Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	4
Tennessee Warbler	4	2	58	-	59	19	21	-	54	11	31	259
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	7
Nashville Warbler	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
Northern Parula	1	1	2	-	1	-	7	-	16	-	-	28
Yellow Warbler	1	-	3	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	8
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	-	6	-	31	10	17	2	4	2	-	77
Magnolia Warbler	24	23	12	2	91	51	92	4	1	15	3	318
Cape May Warbler	2	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	6	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	6
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	-	3	-	7	8	-	-	-	4	1	24
Black-throated Green Warbler	3	-	12	-	5	32	8	1	4	4	1	70
Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	4	-	8	-	2	-	2	-	-	16
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	-	3	-	-	-	2	-	3	2	-	11
Pine Warbler	8	-	5	-	6	3	12	1	-	14	-	49
Prairie Warbler	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-	-	-	-	8

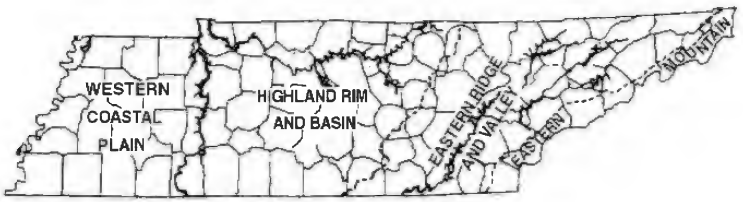
Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Palm Warbler	6	-	10	-	22	3	11	-	-	12	-	64
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	-	11	-	-	7	2	-	1	-	-	22
Black-and-white Warbler	8	2	4	-	-	9	17	-	5	2	-	47
American Redstart	14	12	12	-	-	31	34	-	6	2	2	113
Prothonotary Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Ovenbird	1	-	2	-	1	1	5	-	-	1	-	11
Northern Waterthrush	6	-	2	1	3	1	2	1	-	2	-	18
Kentucky Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Common Yellowthroat	17	3	6	29	24	12	28	4	1	28	-	152
Hooded Warbler	3	-	5	1	3	-	17	1	2	1	-	33
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Canada Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Yellow-breasted Chat	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Summer Tanager	1	2	-	-	4	14	30	-	33	4	-	88
Scarlet Tanager	4	1	9	-	7	5	21	-	2	3	-	52
Eastern Towhee	18	4	27	16	50	32	38	2	12	22	3	224
Chipping Sparrow	20	-	56	8	1	12	210	-	12	110	-	429
Field Sparrow	34	7	20	11	29	96	56	-	1	38	1	293
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	7	3	2	-	4	-	-	9	-	25
Song Sparrow	41	-	105	18	61	4	36	5	-	45	-	315
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	9
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-	-	1		-	1	-	3
White-crowned Sparrow	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Northern Cardinal	151	10	130	100	305	178	319	8	38	166	22	1427
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5		49	2	54	83	9	-	15	34	3	254
Blue Grosbeak	9	-	-	19	6	-	10	-	-	3	-	47
Indigo Bunting	13	3	18	55	94	49	66	2	-	71	41	412
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

Count areas	Blount Co	Davidson Co	Elizabethton	Greeneville	Knox Co	Nashville	Putnam Co	Sevier Co	Shelby Co	White Co	Wilson Co	*Totals*
Bobolink	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Red-winged Blackbird	2	-	35	423	71	10	348	-	15	26	253	1183
Eastern Meadowlark	7	-	23	9	3	16	38	-	2	140	3	241
Rusty Blackbird	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Common Grackle	185	6	36	32	181	298	347	-	3	28	-	1116
Brown-headed Cowbird	110	-	151	-	10	15	140	-	47	20	220	713
Orchard Oriole	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baltimore Oriole	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
House Finch	34	5	22	17	43	29	50	1	9	27	7	244
Pine Siskin	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
American Goldfinch	156	10	60	34	124	117	165	9	60	36	1	772
House Sparrow	35	-	66	26	36	20	107	3	118	56	2	469
Total individuals	4132	427	8071	3144	8927	5625	13351	408	4220	7309	1557	57171
Total species	109	58	122	77	122	111	123	47	103	111	54	183
Effort:												
Observers	15	8	33	14	42	36	10	3	12	9	5	187
Parties	10	1	7	11	18—19	12	5	1	6	6	1	68—69
Party hours	68.6	4	61	25.25	70.25	63.25	61	8	25	54.25	9	449.6
Hours by car	17.67	0.5	-	21.75	8.16	22	47	3	9.5	43.5	2	175.08
Hours by foot	50.94	3.5	-	3.5	62.09	41.25	14	5	15.5	10.75	7	213.53
Hours by canoe or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miles by car	227.4	2	-	234.7	195.5	365	473	32	68.5	514	50	2162.1
Miles by foot	15.75	3.18	-	3.5	39.08	27.25	9	5	15	5.5	3	126.26
Miles by canoe or other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours owling	1.25	-	5	-	2.33	1.75	3.75	-	-	5.5	-	19.58
Miles owling	1	-	-	-	4	23	38	-	-	73	-	139
Feeder observers	11	-	-	-		-	5	-	-	1	3	20
Feeder hours	13.75	-	-	7.75	13	-	13.5	-	-	2	9	59
Count date	19-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep	26-Sep	27-Sep	3-Oct	19-Sep	19-Sep	19-Sep	3-Oct	10-Oct	

The Migrant 81 (1): 48-60, 2010

THE FALL SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER 2009

In general, temperatures were near normal over the first half of the season, while October was cooler than average and November was warmer than average. There was an overall surplus of precipitation statewide, with September and October receiving the greatest amount.

Waterfowl numbers were unimpressive, likely due to the mild November temperatures. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks lingered into mid September near Memphis, and a few scoters appeared in November, mainly in the two eastern regions. A Brown Pelican in Northeast Tennessee was quite unexpected. Roseate Spoonbills occurred in the two western regions. Among raptors, Swallow-tailed Kite, Northern Goshawk, and Golden Eagle were sighted in two regions apiece. The shorebird flight compared favorably to the recent average. A Long-tailed Jaeger provided a first East Tennessee record and several rare gull species were observed in the western region. The warbler migration seemed near normal. Boreal irruptives were scarce this fall. Notable passerines included Vermilion and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Two banding stations in the mountain region continued their migration sampling this season.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult	L. - Lake
ba. - banded	lrs - latest reported sighting
Co - County	max - maximum count
Cr - Creek	m.ob. - many observers
ers - earliest reported sighting	Mtn - Mountain
et al. - and others	R. - River
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	sp. - species
Is - Island	WMA - Wildlife Management Area

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Highlights this season included lingering Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Shelby County, Roseate Spoonbills in Dyer County, Little and Sabine's Gulls at two sites apiece, California and Thayer's

Gulls at Pickwick Dam, a Vermilion Flycatcher in Dyer County, and a Black-headed Grosbeak in Lake County.

Duck - Grebe: **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck**: from summer thru 12 Sep (up to 19, including a female & 4 im) Ensley (JRW, m.ob.). **Snow Goose**: 10 Oct (2 small flocks flying over) Shelby & Lake Cos (JRW), ers. **Cackling Goose**: 26 Nov (2) Britton Ford, Henry Co (JRW), ers. **Tundra Swan**: 28 Nov (2) Pace Point (Steve Routledge et al. / MCT et al.). **Ring-necked Duck**: 10 Oct (4) Dyer Co (JRW), ers. **Greater Scaup**: 1 Nov (3) TVA Lake (JRW), ers. **Black Scoter**: 21 Nov (1) Reelfoot L. (JRW). **Ruddy Duck**: 10 Oct (1) Dyer Co (JRW), ers. **Red-throated Loon**: 2 Nov (1) Pickwick L. (MCT); 26-27 Nov (1 ad, 1 im) Pace Point (JRW). **Pacific Loon**: 27 Nov (1) Pace Point (JRW). **Common Loon**: 26 Nov (400+) Pace Point (JRW), max; 27 Nov (103) Reelfoot L. (JRW), big number there. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 28 Sep (140) Natchez Trace SP, Henderson Co (Richard Connors), notable number there. **Horned Grebe**: 26 Nov (1100+) Pace Point (JRW), max. **Red-necked Grebe**: 27-28 Nov (1) Pace Point (JRW / MCT et al.). **Eared Grebe**: 26 Sep (1) Miss. R., Shelby Co (JRW); 18-29 Oct (2) TVA Lake (JRW); 24 / 31 Oct (1) Pickwick L. (JRW). ***Aechmophorus* sp.**: 21 Nov (1) Reelfoot L. (JRW), thought to be Clark's.

Pelican - Crane: **American White Pelican**: 17 Sep (85) Dacus Bar (JRW), ers; 10 Oct (1700+) Dyer & Lake Cos (JRW), max. **Anhinga**: 7-8 Aug (1) Reelfoot L. (DJT et al.); 6 Sep (1) Mud L., Shelby Co (JRW); 17 Sep (2) Miss. R., Shelby Co (JRW). **Cattle Egret**: 24 Nov (1) Robco L. (JRW), lrs. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 2 Aug (1 ad) Ensley (JRW). **ROSEATE SPOONBILL**: 23 Aug - 1 Sep (1-2 im) Great River Rd & Moss Is. WMA, Dyer Co (JRW, m.ob.). **Wood Stork**: 29 Aug (9) Lauderdale Co (JRW); 6-13 Sep (3-37) Mud L., Shelby Co (JRW); 18 Sep (3) Dacus Bar (JRW). **Osprey**: 15 Nov (1) Lake Co (NaM); 24 Nov (1) Robco L. (JRW); lrs. **Swallow-tailed Kite**: 27 Aug (1) Carroll Co (Dawn Wilkins, photo). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 1 Nov (1) Shelby Co (JRW), lrs. **Red-tailed Hawk**: 10 Oct (1 *calurus*) Dyer Co (JRW), ers for this western sub-sp.; 22 Nov (1, "Krider's") Ensley (JRW), returned wintering bird. **Merlin**: 1 Sep (1) Lake Co (MCT), ers. **Peregrine Falcon**: 30 Aug (1) Lake Co (JRW), ers. **Sandhill Crane**: 28 Nov (2) near Pace Point (MCT et al.), ers.

Shorebirds: **Black-bellied Plover**: 23 Aug - 1 Sep (1) Island 13 (JRW, MCT). **American Golden-Plover**: 1 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW) & (1) Island 13 (MCT), ers. **Piping Plover**: 22 Aug (1) Dacus Bar (JRW); 23 Aug - 1 Sep (3-1) Island 13 (JRW, MCT). **American Avocet**: 17-18 Sep (2) Dacus Bar (JRW); 3 Oct (1) Lake Co (NaM et al.). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 22 Nov (1) TVA Lake (CHB, Virginia Reynolds), lrs. **Upland Sandpiper**: 1 Aug / 11 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW); 23 Aug (1) Island 13 (JRW). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 1-2 / 26 Aug (1) Ensley (JRW); 24 Aug / 10 Sep (1) Island 13 (MCT / SGS, WMP); 21 Sep (1) Pace Point (MCT). **Sanderling**: 1 Aug (2) Ensley (JRW); 23 Aug - 10 Sep / 10 Oct (1-10 / 2) Island 13 (JRW, MCT, SGS, WMP); 18 Sep (4) Dacus Bar (JRW). **Western Sandpiper**: 28 Nov (2) Ensley (JRW), lrs. **Least Sandpiper**: thru season (up to 3000 - 4000) Ensley (JRW), with 1200+ still present 28 Nov. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 28 Aug (1) Island 13 (MCT, SGS, ES); 4 Sep (1) Ensley (JRW). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 1 Aug / 26 Sep (1 / 2) Ensley (JRW), ers / lrs; 23 Aug - 10 Sep (1-3) Island 13 (JRW, MCT, SGS, WMP); 1 Sep (1) Tiptonville Bar (MCT). **Dunlin**: 14 Oct (5 / 3) Henry Co. / Benton Co. (MCT); 23 Oct - 28 Nov

(1-9) Ensley (JRW). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 22 Oct (7) Ensley (JRW), lrs. **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 23 Aug - 1 Sep / 10 Sep (1 / 5) Island 13 (JRW, MCT / SGS, WMP); 6 / 11 Sep (2) Ensley (JRW). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 10 Oct (19) Dyer Co (JRW). **Wilson's Snipe**: 15 Sep (2) Ensley (JRW), ers. **Wilson's Phalarope**: 1-2 Aug (1) Ensley (JRW).

Gull - Tern: **Laughing Gull**: 11 / 30 Sep (1) Pace Point (MCT); 25 Sep / 24 Oct (5 / 1) Pickwick Dam (Steve McConnell / JRW); 10 Oct (3) Tiptonville Bar (JRW). **Franklin's Gull**: 23 Aug / 10 Oct (1 / 11) Tiptonville Bar (JRW); 25 Sep / 24 Oct - 15 Nov (3 / 6-15) Pickwick Dam (Steve McConnell / JRW); 30 Sep (2) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT); 5 Oct / 21-27 Nov (2 / 12) Reelfoot L. (MCT / JRW); 14 Oct / 27 Nov (1) Pace Point (MCT / JRW). **LITTLE GULL**: 19 Nov (1 im) Lick Cr., Benton Co (MCT); 21-27 Nov (1 ad, 1 im) Reelfoot L. (JRW, Mark Greene, MCT). **Ring-billed Gull**: 22 Aug (1) Miss. R., Shelby Co (JRW), ers. **CALIFORNIA GULL**: 31 Oct / 2 Nov (1 ad, 1 im / 1 ad) Pickwick Dam (JRW / MCT). **THAYER'S GULL**: 24 Oct - 2 Nov (1-2 im, with 1 ad. on first day only) Pickwick Dam (JRW, MCT). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 16 / 30 Sep (1 / 3) Paris Landing SP, Henry Co (MCT); 25 Sep / 24 Oct - 15 Nov (1 im / 2 ad, 2 im) Pickwick Dam (Steve McConnell / JRW, MCT); 21 Nov (1) Reelfoot L. (JRW); 26-27 Nov (2) Pace Point (JRW). **SABINE'S GULL**: 13 Sep (1 ad) Loosahatchie Bar, Shelby Co (JRW); 25 Sep (2 im) Pickwick Dam (Steve McConnell). **Caspian Tern**: 24 Oct (2) Pickwick Dam (JRW), lrs. **Forster's Tern**: 26 Nov (22) Pace Point (JRW); 27 Nov (2) Reelfoot L. (JRW); 28 Nov (2) Robco L. (JRW); lrs.

Cuckoo - Blackbird: **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 10 Oct (1) Lake Co (JRW). **Whip-poor-will**: 3 Oct (1, found freshly dead) Martin, Weakley Co (fide David Pitts). **Barn Owl**: 3 Oct (1) Lake Co (NaM et al.). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 30 Sep (2) Shelby Forest (DDP, CHB, VH et al.), ers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 11 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Vermilion Flycatcher**: 21 Nov (1 female) Tigrett WMA, Dyer Co (Glen Criswell). **Western Kingbird**: 15 Aug (2) Shelby Co (JRW), lrs. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 30 Sep (10) Shelby Forest (DDP, CHB, VH et al.), max; 14 Oct (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Tree Swallow**: 26 Nov (2) Pace Point (JRW), lrs. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 30 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT); 13 Oct (1) Carroll Co (Donna Ward). **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 2 Nov (7) Pickwick Dam (MCT). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: 14 Oct (2) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 28 Nov (1) Pace Point (MCT et al.), late. **Gray Catbird**: 27 Nov (1) Dyer Co (Glen Criswell), lrs. **Cedar Waxwing**: 30 Aug (40) Lake Co (JRW, Joe Guinn), early for a flock. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 11 Sep (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 14 Oct (1) Henry Co (MCT), ers. **Nashville Warbler**: 14 Oct (1) Henry Co (MCT), lrs. **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 30 Sep (2) Shelby Forest (DDP, CHB, VH et al.), ers. **Lark Sparrow**: 7 Aug (1) Black Bayou, Lake Co (DJT et al.); 10 Sep (1) Island 13 (SGS). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 2 Nov (1) Hardin Co (MCT). **Nelson's Sparrow**: 30 Sep (1) Big Sandy, Henry Co (MCT). **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK**: 10 Oct (1 im male) Lake Co (JRW). **Dickcissel**: 30 Sep (1) Big Sandy, Henry Co (MCT), lrs. **Brewer's Blackbird**: 24 Nov (200) Black Bayou, Lake Co (MCT).

Locations: Dacus Bar - in Shelby Co; Ensley - in Shelby Co; Island 13 - in Lake Co; Pace Point - in Henry Co; Pickwick L. - in Hardin Co; Reelfoot L. - Lake Co

portion; Robco L. - in Shelby Co; Shelby Forest - in Shelby Co; Tiptonville Bar - in Lake Co; TVA Lake - in Shelby Co.

DICK D. PRESTON, 261 Sassafras Circle, Munford, TN 38058.
dickpreston@bigriver.net

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — The four-month fall season in the Nashville area had near normal temperatures for August and September, followed by a cool October and a warmer than normal November. The rainfall range, however, was much more extreme. A slightly below normal precipitation total in August was followed by a near biblical flood in September. More than 11 inches of rain fell in Nashville during that month. Although the rain amount decreased somewhat in October, it was still twice as much as usual, and thus, a total of nearly 18 inches fell during the two-month span. The deluge finally abated in November, when Nashville recorded less than one inch of rain for the month.

Duck - Falcon: **American Black Duck**: 28 Sep (1) Radnor L (JKS), ers. **Blue-winged Teal**: 8 Aug (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK), ers. **Ruddy Duck**: 16 Oct (1) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Common Loon**: 30 Nov (100+) Percy Priest L., Davidson Co (SGS). **Pied-billed Grebe**: 21 Aug (3) Radnor L. (JKS), ers. **Horned Grebe**: 15 Nov (250) Center Hill L., DeKalb Co (Melinda Welton), max. **American White Pelican**: 24 Oct (200) Duck R. Unit, Humphreys Co (DK). **Least Bittern**: 19 Sep (1) Putnam Co (BHS). **Great Egret**: 15 Aug (50) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK); 23 Aug (47) Little Elder Is. (DSw et al.). **Snowy Egret**: 23 Aug (6) Little Elder Is. (DSw et al.); 20 Sep (2) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK). **Little Blue Heron**: 8 / 15 Aug (1-2) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK); 23 Aug (73) Little Elder Is. (DSw et al.). **Tricolored Heron**: 29 Aug (1) Edgar Evins SP, DeKalb Co (Judy Fuson, Michael Hawkins). **Cattle Egret**: 23 Aug (2381) Little Elder Is. (DSw et al.); 3 Oct (4) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS). **White Ibis**: 9 / 23 Aug (3 im / 2 im) Little Elder Is. (DK / DSw et al.). **ROSEATE SPOONBILL**: 6 Sep (1) Duck R. Unit, Humphreys Co (Evan Gaskin, Clayton Ferrell). **Bald Eagle**: 6 Sep thru season (1 ad) Radnor L. (JKS, m.ob.). **Golden Eagle**: 26 Nov (1 im) near Springfield, Robertson Co (Tony Lance). **Merlin**: 21 Oct (1) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Peregrine Falcon**: 8 Oct (1 im) downtown Nashville (Chris Sloan); 16 Oct (1) Clarksville (DMo).

Rail - Tern: **Virginia Rail**: 21 Nov (2) Clarkrange, Fentress Co (EKL, SJS). **American Coot**: 8 Aug (2) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK), ers; 8 Nov (1, leucistic) Woods Reservoir (DSw, Ruth Luckado). **Sandhill Crane**: 17 Oct (5, flying over) Cookeville (EKL), ers. **Black-bellied Plover**: 23-24 Oct (1) Putnam Co (SJS, BHS, Winston Walden), 2nd Co. record. **Semipalmated Plover**: 8 Aug (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK), ers. **Piping Plover**: 22 Aug (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (Bob Ingle, DK, photo). **American Avocet**: 26 Sep (1) Clay Co (Winston Walden, Mike O'Rourke, JD Becker). **Sanderling**: 20 Sep (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK). **Western Sandpiper**: 15 Aug (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK). **Dunlin**: 17 Oct (3) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK); 18 Oct (1) Davidson Co (DK). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 8 / 15 Aug (1 / 2) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 20 Sep (1) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK). **American Woodcock**: 28 Nov (2) Marshall Co (DMo). **Wilson's Phalarope**: 15 Aug (1) Gallatin

Steam Plant (DK). **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 26 Nov (1 ad) Woods Reservoir (DSw), returned for 3rd winter. **Caspian Tern**: 15 Aug (30) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK), max. **Black Tern**: 21 Aug (2) Radnor L. (JKS); 23 Aug (23) Woods Reservoir (DSw et al.); 29 Aug (4) Old Hickory L., Davidson Co (JKS, NTOS). **Forster's Tern**: 25 Nov (1) Percy Priest L., Davidson Co (SGS), lrs.

Dove - Pipit: **COMMON GROUND-DOVE**: 7 Nov (1) Hwy 247, Maury Co (Melinda Welton). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 14 Sep (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Barn Owl**: 28 Nov (1) Marshall Co (DMo). **Short-eared Owl**: 12 Nov (2) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 23 Sep (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Olive-sided Flycatcher**: 5 Sep (1) Dale Hollow L., Clay Co (EKL, SJS); 11 / 23 Sep (1) Shelby Park (PDC); 16 Sep (1) Radnor L. (JKS, NTOS). **ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER** 14 Nov (1) Woods Reservoir, at dam (Douglas Downs, SJS, EKL et al.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 13 Sep (3) Christiana, Rutherford Co (Laura McCall), with 1 lingering thru 14 Oct (m.ob.); 12 Oct (1) Clarksville (DMo). **Loggerhead Shrike**: 20 Oct thru season (1-2) Robertson Co (Tony Lance); 21 Nov (2) Warren Co (Susan McWhirter). **Philadelphia Vireo**: 11 Sep (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 3 Oct (10) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS); 10 Oct (5) Radnor L. (FCF). **Horned Lark**: 21 Oct (5) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Purple Martin**: 13 Aug (15,000 +) Nashville (SGS), max. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 29 Oct (1) Davidson Co (ES); 8 Nov (2) Nashville (JKS); 21 Nov (2) Fentress Co (EKL, SJS). **Brown Creeper**: 16 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), ers. **Bewick's Wren**: 4 Oct (1) Radnor L. (JKS, David Hawkins). **Winter Wren**: 19 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), ers. **Sedge Wren**: 21 Oct (1) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Marsh Wren**: 18 Oct (1) Davidson Co (DK). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: 3 Oct (2) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS), ers. **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**: 21 Sep (1) Davidson Co (ES), ers. **Veery**: 16 Sep (2) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 16 Sep (1) Radnor L (JKS, NTOS), ers. **Wood Thrush**: 20 Nov into Dec (1) Putnam Co (SJS, BHS), lrs. **American Pipit**: 17 Oct (9) Gallatin Steam Plant (DK), ers.

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 10 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 1 Sep (1) Davidson Co (ES), ers; 2 Sep / 1 Oct (3 / 1) Radnor L. (FCF, JKS / FCF), max / lrs. **Tennessee Warbler**: 2 Sep (1) Radnor L (FCF, JKS), ers; 4 Nov (2) Shelby Park (PDC), lrs. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 3 Oct (2) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS), ers; 31 Oct (1) Harpeth R. Greenway, Davidson Co (FCF); 4 Nov (1) Shelby Park (PDC). **Nashville Warbler**: 22 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Yellow Warbler**: 3 Oct (2) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS), lrs. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 23 Aug (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 19 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Magnolia Warbler**: 12 Aug (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 9 Oct (1 male) Radnor L. (FCF). **Yellow-rumped Warbler**: 30 Sep (2) Radnor L. (FCF), ers. **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 14 Sep (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 7 Oct (24) Radnor L (FCF), max. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 31 Aug (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 22 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 29 Sep (1) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 10 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), rare in fall. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 31 Oct (1) Radnor L. (Scott Block), lrs. **American Redstart**: 22 Oct (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs. **Northern Waterthrush**: 2 Sep (1) Radnor L (FCF, JKS), ers. **Mourning Warbler**: 8 Sep (1) Radnor L. (FCF). **Wilson's Warbler**: 31 Aug (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 3 Oct (1) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS), lrs. **Canada**

Warbler: 29 Aug / 2 Sep (1 / 4) Radnor L (FCF, JKS), ers / max. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: 9 Nov (1) Radnor L. (FCF), lrs.

Sparrow - Siskin: **Bachman's Sparrow**: 2 Aug (1) Ft. Campbell, Stewart Co portion (DMo). **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: 16 Oct (1) DeKalb Co (SJS, Judy Fuson), rare in state, 1st Co. record. **Vesper Sparrow**: 21 Oct (2) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 16 Aug (2) Warren Co (Susan McWhirter). **Henslow's Sparrow**: 21 Oct (1) Ft. Campbell (DMo). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 15 Oct (1) Davidson Co (FCF); 21 Oct (1) Ft. Campbell (DMo); 2 Nov (1) Bell's Bend, Davidson Co (ES). **White-crowned Sparrow**: 3 Oct (1) Nashville Fall Count (fide JKS), ers. **Dark-eyed Junco**: 14 Oct (2) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 8 Nov (1) Nashville (Ed Gleaves), lrs. **Dickcissel**: 21 Oct (1) Ft. Campbell (DMo), lrs. **Rusty Blackbird**: 27 Nov (2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, Mike Smith), ers. **Baltimore Oriole**: 31 Aug (6) Shelby Park and Bottoms (PDC). **Purple Finch**: 1 Nov (1) DeKalb Co (Tommy & Virginia Curtis); 2 Nov (3) Davidson Co (ES). **Pine Siskin**: 7 Aug (1-2) Cookeville (SJS, BHS).

Locations: Ft. Campbell - Montgomery Co. unless stated otherwise; Gallatin Steam Plant - in Sumner Co; Little Elder Is. - in Franklin Co; Radnor L. - in Davidson Co; Shelby Park / Bottoms - in Davidson Co; Woods Reservoir - in Franklin Co.

PHILLIP D. CASTEEL, 400 Forrest Park Road, B1-4, Madison, TN 37115.
capemaywarbler1@bellsouth.net

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU / RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — Temperatures over the first half of the season were near normal. This was followed by a cooler than average October, while November was warmer than average. Rainfall was below average in August, but significantly above average in both September and October, with November concluding the season with a near average amount. Mast production was very good again this year.

After reaching a good water level for shorebird viewing at Rankin Bottoms, heavy rains in late September caused Douglas Lake to rise about ten feet, inundating the mudflats. These waters did not recede until three weeks later, and the water level remained higher than normal well into November. Despite this, 22 species of shorebirds were recorded at Rankin Bottoms this season.

Elsewhere, good coverage resulted in several notable sightings at Eagle Bend fish hatchery and Austin Springs. Water levels at Brainerd Levee and Standifer Gap Marsh provided decent shorebird habitat.

Waterfowl numbers were unremarkable this fall, although all three species of scoters were encountered. A Brown Pelican at Boone Lake became the 11th record in Tennessee, with seven of those occurring since 2002 and three this year. Notable were two sightings of Glossy Ibis, plus another *Plegadis* sp. that was likely this species, within a narrow window during mid-September. Raptor highlights included a Swallow-tailed Kite, two reports of Northern Goshawk, and a Golden Eagle seen over an unusual spread of dates (if, indeed, a single bird was involved). A Common Moorhen was a regional rarity. An immature Long-tailed Jaeger was serendipitously photographed, providing about the sixth record for the state and the first for East

Tennessee. A Least Tern at Eagle Bend was not only among few ever seen in East Tennessee, but it had been banded as a chick in central Nebraska just five and a half weeks earlier!

Ravens continue to be found in several northeastern counties in this region, well away from traditional sites in the Blue Ridge. A Connecticut Warbler in Greene County on 1 August was exceptionally early. It was an off year for boreal irruptives with only a few scattered reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin.

Goose - Ibis: **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 12 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 17 Oct (1) John Sevier L. (SHu); both early, if not the same bird. **American Black Duck**: 6 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS), ers. **Blue-winged Teal**: 20 Aug (7) Steele Cr. Park (LCM), ers. **Northern Pintail**: 1 Oct (1) Paddle Cr. pond (JWC, RLK), ers. **Green-winged Teal**: 22 Nov (92) Greene Co (DHM), max. **Lesser Scaup**: 14 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy, MN), ers; 11 Nov (230) Boone L. (RLK), max. **Surf Scoter**: 25 Nov (1 male) Nickajack Dam (DK); 27 Nov (1 female) Tenn. R., Hamilton Co (DRJ et al.). **White-winged Scoter**: 23 Nov (1) Chickamauga L, Hamilton Co (KAC). **Black Scoter**: 12 Nov (1 female) Steele Cr. Park (LCM, photo); 23-25 Nov (1 female) Chickamauga L, Hamilton Co (DRJ et al.). **Hooded Merganser**: 4 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK), ers. **Ruddy Duck**: 10 Oct (1) Paddle Cr. pond (RLK), ers; 1 Nov (76) Boone L. (RLK), max. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 21 Aug (1) L. Tansi, Cumberland Co (EKL), ers. **Horned Grebe**: 18 Oct (1) Boone L. (JWC), ers.**BROWN PELICAN**: 2-3 Aug (1 im) Boone L. (fide Russ & Ann Harrison to Gary Barrigar; RLK, LCM, & Brookie Potter were first to confirm sighting, m.ob., photo), had been present for a day or two; this is undoubtedly the same bird seen flying south over Hwy I-81 ten miles north of Bristol on 30 Jul (Tom Hunter). **American Bittern**: 17 Oct / 22 Nov (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 8 Nov (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (DJT et al.). **Great Egret**: 5 Sep (340) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), new high count there; 29 Sep (22) Nolichucky R., Greene Co (Don Holt); 30 Sep (17) Middlebrook L., Sullivan Co (JWC). **Snowy Egret**: 4 Aug (1) Brainerd Levee (LAW); 25 Oct (1) Bible Refuge (DHM), one of latest dates in state. **Little Blue Heron**: 4 Aug (1) Brainerd Levee (LAW); 9 Aug (1) Kinser Park, Greene Co (DHM); thru 3 Sep (1-4 im) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM); 27 Sep (4 im) Austin Springs (RLK), new late date in NE Tenn. **Tricolored Heron**: 3-4 Aug (1) Brainerd Levee (RJH, TLR, m.ob.). **Green Heron**: 8 Nov (1) Greene Co (DHM); 21 Nov (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Knoxville TOS); both late. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 9 Aug / 26 Sep (2-3) separate Greene Co sites (DHM). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 9 Sep (2) Blount Co (Carole Gobert); 19 Sep (1 im) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, photo). **White Ibis**: thru 5 Sep (1-7 im) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); 24 Aug - 2 Sep (1 im) Paddle Cr. pond (JWC, m.ob.). **Glossy Ibis**: 14-15 Sep (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy, photo); 16-17 Sep (1) Paddle Cr. pond (JWC, RLK, photo), 5th record in NE Tenn. ***Plegadis* sp.**: 11 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (EKL).

Kite - Crane: **Swallow-tailed Kite**: 8 Aug (1) Hwy 321 in Cocke Co., 1 mile from Greene Co line (Dee Eiklor). **Osprey**: 1 Nov (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 14 Nov (1) Greene Co (DHM); both late. **Northern Goshawk**: 12 Nov (1 ad) Steele Cr. Park (LCM, Jeremy Stout); 27 Nov (1 ad) Knox Co (Paul Sykes). **Red-shouldered**

Hawk: 26 Sep (1) Bible Refuge (DHM); 7 Nov (3) John Sevier L (DHM). **Broad-winged Hawk**: 27 Sep (3992) Soddy Mtn., Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson et al.), best one-day total ever at this hawk watch; 1 Nov (1) Hamilton Co (DA), lrs. **Golden Eagle**: 24 Sep / 1 Oct / 24 Nov (1 ad) Steele Cr. Park (LCM). **Merlin**: 6 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS); 17 Oct (1) John Sevier L. (DHM, SHu); 11 Nov (1) Bristol (JWC). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3-19 Sep (1 ad) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM, RLK, m.ob.); 27 Sep (1) Soddy Mtn., Hamilton Co (Jimmy Wilkerson et al.); 9 Oct (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 19 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 8 Nov (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Virginia Rail**: 24 Oct (5) Standifer Gap Marsh (TLR), max there. **Sora**: 11 Sep (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM); 26 Sep (1) Austin Springs (RLK et al.); 24 Oct (4) Standifer Gap Marsh (TLR). **Common Moorhen**: 16-22 Oct / 20 Nov (1 im) John Sevier L. (SHu, photo). **Sandhill Crane**: 3 Nov (30) Fall Cr. Falls SP, Van Buren Co (DFV), ers; 27 Nov (6) Bristol (RLK), well east of usual migration corridor.

Shorebirds: **Black-bellied Plover**: 17 Sep / 20 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy); 19 Sep / 24 Oct (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS / DHM); 18 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **American Golden-Plover**: 13 Aug (1) Brainerd Levee (LAW et al.); 9-13 Sep / 11 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy, m.ob. / Chuck & Lola Estes); 19 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS). **Semipalmated Plover**: 21 Aug / 16 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy), ers / lrs. **American Avocet**: 21 Aug (1) Nickajack L. (TLR et al.); 3-11 Sep (2-1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DK, m.ob.); 20 Sep (4) John Sevier L. (SHu); 17 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 18 Nov (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy). **Spotted Sandpiper**: 21 Oct (1) Bluff City (JWC), lrs aside from following; 12 Nov (1) Kingsport (Bill Grigsby), where one has wintered last 4 years. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 24 Oct (1) Bluff City (RLK), lrs. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 14 Nov (1) Bible Refuge (DHM), lrs. **Willet**: 30 Aug - 6 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM, m.ob.). **Marbled Godwit**: 21 Aug (1) Nickajack L. (TLR et al.). **Sanderling**: 30 Aug / 19-27 Oct (1 / 2) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM, RLK); 24 Sep (3) Austin Springs (RLK). **Western Sandpiper**: 23 Aug - 6 Sep (2-7) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, m.ob.); 25 Oct - 1 Nov (1-2) Austin Springs (RLK). **Least Sandpiper**: 15 Nov (130) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), max. **Baird's Sandpiper**: 6 / 19 Sep (2 / 1) Rankin Bottoms (DHM, RLK, MBS); 1 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 15 Nov (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS), new late date there. **Dunlin**: 14-20 Oct (3-8) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy, MN); 15 Oct - 1 Nov (8-40) Austin Springs (RLK); 18-24 Oct (3) Bluff City (JWC, RLK); 19 Oct - 15 Nov (22-160) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, MBS); 11 Nov (4) Boone L. (RLK); 22 Nov (3) Greene Co (DHM); good showing. **Stilt Sandpiper**: 15 Aug - 3 Sep / 11 Oct / 27 Oct - 3 Nov (1-5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, m.ob.), new late date there; 18-19 Oct (1) Bluff City (JWC, RLK). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 30 Aug / 6 Sep (1 / 5) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM, RLK); 21 Sep (2) Standifer Gap Marsh (LAW et al.). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 30 Aug / 11 Sep (2 / 8) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DHM / EKL). **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 29 Oct (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, photo). **Wilson's Snipe**: 13 Aug (1) Brainerd Levee (LAW, TLR); 23 Aug (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); ers.

Jaeger - Sapsucker: **LONG-TAILED JAEGER**: 14 Oct (1 im) Eagle Bend (MN, photo). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 6 Sep (1 im) Rankin Bottoms (RLK, DHM, MBS), new early date in East Tenn. **Ring-billed Gull**: 23 Aug (10) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), ers. **Herring Gull**: 16 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy), ers. **Lesser Black-backed**

Gull: 21 Sep (1 ad) Tenn. R., Hamilton Co (Dennis Harris et al.). **LEAST TERN**: 21 Aug (1 im) Eagle Bend (RDH, DMy), it had been banded as a chick on 14 Jul 2009 along the Platte R., near Lexington, Nebraska (fide Jennifer Stucker). **Caspian Tern**: 23 Aug - 12 Sep (2-4) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, m.ob.); 30 Aug (3) Austin Springs (RLK). **Black Tern**: 18 Aug (9) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 18-30 Aug (6-24) Austin Springs (RLK); 19 Aug (12) Eagle Bend (Brenda McMahan); 20 Aug (75) Nickajack L. (RJH); 21 Aug (27) L. Tansi, Cumberland Co (EKL); 20-21 Aug (7-12) John Sevier L. (SHu). **Common Tern**: 20 Aug (2) Nickajack L. (RJH); 19 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS). **Forster's Tern**: 9 Aug (2) Boone L. (JWC); 20 Aug (6) Nickajack L. (RJH); 9 / 24 Sep (1 / 2) Austin Springs (RLK). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 14 Nov (8) Greene Co (DHM), 65th consecutive month at site; 29 Nov (34) Bledsoe Co (EKL, SJS, DFV, Tom Saya). **Barn Owl**: 2 Aug (3 in silo) Paddle Cr. pond (JWC); 30 Aug (1) V.A. in Johnson City (RRK). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 3 / 12 Nov (2 / 4, all ba.) Seymour, Sevier Co (Mark Armstrong). **Common Nighthawk**: 30 Oct (1) Kingsport (Bill Grigsby), lrs. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 30 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers.

Flycatcher - Warbler: **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 22 Aug (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 17 Sep (1) Johnson City (Darrel Wilder). **Least Flycatcher**: 24 Oct (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (TLR), lrs.**Loggerhead Shrike**: 29 Nov (1) Bledsoe Co (EKL, SJS, DFV, Tom Saya). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 6 Nov (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 15 Sep / 18 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE); 29 Sep / 13 Oct (1 / 2) Greeneville (DHM); 2 Oct (1) Johnson City (RLK). **Red-eyed Vireo**: 18 Oct (1) Greeneville (DHM), lrs. **Common Raven**: thru season, sightings at Johnson City (3 dates) & Limestone in Washington Co; Kingsport, Bristol (6 dates), & Blountville - all in Sullivan Co; Greeneville; and near Rogersville, Hawkins Co; (m.ob.). **Tree Swallow**: 7 Nov (1,000) Hawkins Co (DHM), late for so many. **Cliff Swallow**: 30 Sep (2) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 27 Oct (1) Hamilton Co (David Patterson); 1 Nov (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Carole Gobert); 5 Nov (1) Johnson City (RLK); 24 Nov (1) Greeneville (DHM); only reports. **House Wren**: 8 Nov (2) Greene Co (DHM), lrs. **Sedge Wren**: 5 Oct (1) Hamilton Co (KAC). **Marsh Wren**: 26 Sep (1) Bible Refuge (DHM); 26 Sep - 8 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 5 Oct (10) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC); 14 Nov (2) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM). **Swainson's Thrush**: 1 Nov (1) Knoxville (Frank Bills), lrs. **Hermit Thrush**: 3 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **American Pipit**: 11 Oct (12 / 1 / 1) Austin Springs / Rankin Bottoms / Eagle Bend (RLK / DHM, MBS / Chuck & Lola Estes), ers. **Blue-winged Warbler**: 27 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE); 30 Sep (1) Washington Co (RLK); both late. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 2 / 22 Sep (1) Washington Co (RLK); 15 Sep (1) Craven's House, Hamilton Co (KAC); 26 Sep (1) Greene Co (DHM); 27-29 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE). **Tennessee Warbler**: 1 Sep / 1 Nov (1) Knoxville (KDE / Frank Bills), ers / lrs. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 2 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (DMy); 18 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM); 25 Oct (1) Kingsport (John Moyle); 7 Nov (2) Seven Is. Refuge, Knox Co (Michael Autin). **Nashville Warbler**: 2 Sep / 18 Oct (1) Knoxville (KDE), ers / lrs. **Yellow Warbler**: 1 / 4 Oct (3 / 1) John Sevier L. (SHu), lrs. **Magnolia Warbler**: 29 Aug (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 14 Oct (1) Hamilton Co (DA), lrs. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 3 Oct (1) Norris Dam, Anderson Co (RDH, DMy); 6 Oct (1) Greeneville (DHM); both late. **Cerulean**

Warbler: 1 Aug (1) Greeneville (DHM). **Prothonotary Warbler**: 3 Sep (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, DK); 28 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Kentucky Warbler**: 30 Sep (1) Washington Co (RLK), lrs. **Connecticut Warbler**: 1 Aug (1) Greeneville (DHM); 11 Sep (1 ba.) Hamilton Co (DA). **Common Yellowthroat**: 22 Nov (1) Wal-Mart Dist. Center (DHM), lrs. **Wilson's Warbler**: 2 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE); 11 Sep (1 ba.) Hamilton Co (DA); 30 Sep (1) Washington Co (RLK); 2 Oct (1) Eagle Bend (RDH).

Sparrow - Siskin: **Vesper Sparrow**: 23 Oct (3) Austin Springs (DHM); 6 Nov (1) Eagle Bend (RLK, Bill Grigsby); 8 Nov (6) Hamilton Co (KAC, DRJ). **Lark Sparrow**: 20 Sep (1 im) Paddle Cr. pond (RLK, JWC, photo), 5th record in NE Tenn. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 7 Nov (1) Seven Is. Refuge, Knox Co (Michael Autin); 8 Nov (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (DJT et al.); lrs. **Henslow's Sparrow**: 8 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK), 9th record in NE Tenn; 10 Nov (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 8 Nov (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC, DRJ), 2nd Co. record. **Nelson's Sparrow**: 5 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK), 24th record in NE Tenn. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 2 Oct (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC); 15 Oct (1) Austin Springs (RLK); 8 Nov (1) Knox Co (Kelly Roy). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 7 Nov (1) Seven Is. Refuge, Knox Co (Michael Autin), lrs. **Dickcissel**: 24 Sep (1, flying over at dawn) Knoxville (KDE). **Rusty Blackbird**: 18 Oct (1) Greene Co (DHM), quite early; 9 Nov (22) Washington Co (RLK). **Orchard Oriole**: 2 Sep (1) Knoxville (KDE), lrs. **Purple Finch**: 16 Oct (1) Steele Cr. Park (LCM); 18 Oct (2) Cumberland Co (EKL); 28 Oct (1) Hamilton Co (David Patterson); a few scattered reports in Nov. **Pine Siskin**: 20 Oct (1) Kingsport (John Moyle); 17 Nov (1) Hamilton Co (Carol Fegarido); 22 Nov (1) Hamblen Co (Ginger Goolsby); 23 Nov (1) Campbell Co (Nell Moore); only reports.

Locations: Austin Springs - in Washington Co; Bible Refuge - in Greene Co; Bluff City - in Sullivan Co; Boone L. - Sullivan Co portion; Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Eagle Bend - fish hatchery in Anderson Co; John Sevier L. - in Hawkins Co; Nickajack L - in Marion Co; Paddle Cr. pond - in Sullivan Co; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - in Hamilton Co; Steele Cr. Park - in Sullivan Co; Wal-Mart Distribution Center - in Greene Co.

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, 804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604.
rknight8@earthlink.net

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Average daily temperatures were above normal in September and November, while August and October temperatures were about average. Precipitation was below normal for August by 1.5 inches and was above normal for both September (+1.9 inches) and October (+1.7 inches). November had a normal amount of rainfall.

Banding operations were conducted again at Big Bald Mountain and Whigg Meadow this fall. At Big Bald Mountain, there was a raptor banding operation in addition to songbird banding (more info at www.bigbaldbanding.org). Both locations captured hatching year Northern Saw-whet Owls with juvenile plumage; thus, they were believed to have been fledged near the banding sites. Below are summaries for each station:

Whigg Meadow, Monroe County: 31 Aug thru 19 September (632 birds of 36 species banded), David Vogt, bander. Top species: Tennessee Warbler (227), Dark-eyed Junco (92), Black-throated Blue Warbler (90), Swainson's Thrush (47), Blue-headed Vireo (38).

Big Bald Mountain, Unicoi County: September thru October (1179 birds of 50 species banded), G. Rad Mayfield, bander. Top species banded: Tennessee Warbler (243), Swainson's Thrush (225), Black-throated Blue Warbler (143), Dark-eyed Junco (93), Palm Warbler (57).

Big Bald Mountain hawk and owl banding operation: September thru October (106 birds of 7 species banded), Mark Hopey, bander. Species banded: Sharp-shinned Hawk (61), Cooper's Hawk (16), Northern Saw-whet Owl (12), Red-tailed Hawk (8), Merlin (5), American Kestrel (3), Northern Harrier (1).

Duck - Cormorant: **Ring-necked Duck**: summering pair on Watauga R. present thru Aug, with 1 still present 26 Sep (Bryan Stevens). **Greater Scaup**: 29 Nov (2) Wilbur L. (B&JP). **Surf Scoter**: 1 Nov (2) Watauga L., Carter Co (TSM); 6 Nov (2) South Holston L. (JWC). **White-winged Scoter**: 1 Nov (8) South Holston L. (RLK). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 16 Nov (69) South Holston L. (JWC), max. **Ruddy Duck**: 1 Nov (54) South Holston L. (RLK), max. **Common Loon**: 29 Sep (1) South Holston L. (RLK), ers; 1 Nov (53) South Holston L. (JWC), max. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 21 Aug (3) South Holston L. (RLK), ers. **Horned Grebe**: 23 Nov (66) South Holston L. (RLK), max. **Eared Grebe**: 14 Sep thru season (3) South Holston L. (JWC, RLK, m.ob.), 16th consecutive autumn present. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 1 Nov (200+) South Holston L. (JWC), ties high count for NE Tenn.; 13-14 Nov (7) Ramsey Cascade trail, GSMNP (photo, fide Susan Hoyle), unusual site & among few park records.

Egret - Coot: **Great Egret**: 23 Aug - 11 Oct (1-9) South Holston L. (JWC, m.ob.); 20-26 Sep (1-2) Erwin (Joe McGuiness). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 26 Aug - 22 Oct (1-5) South Holston L. (JWC, m.ob.); 6 / 26 Sep (1 ad) Watauga R. (RLK / Gary Wallace); 14 Nov (1 ad) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 11 Sep (1 im) Watauga R. (RLK), lrs. **Osprey**: 1 / 23 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (RRK / RLK). **Bald Eagle**: thru season (1-2 ad, 1-2 im) South Holston L. (JWC, m.ob.); 3-4 Sep (1 ad) Cades Cove, GSMNP (fide WB); 26 Sep (1 ad) Nolichucky R., Unicoi Co (Joe McGuiness); 26 Sep / 1 Nov (1 ad) upper Watauga L., Johnson Co (TSM); 18 Oct (1 ad) Elizabethton (Dexter Newman); 25-29 Nov (2 ad, 3 im) Wilbur L. (B&JP); species continues to increase in region. **Northern Goshawk**: 26 Sep (2 ad) Ripshin L., Carter Co (Fred Alsop et al.). **Merlin**: 18 Sep (1) South Holston L. (RLK); 23 Sep (2) Roan Mtn (RLK). **Peregrine Falcon**: 7 Sep (1) Holston Valley (RLK). **Virginia Rail**: 26 Sep / 28 Nov (1 / 2) Quarry Bog (GDE, RRK / RLK). **Sora**: 26 Sep (2) Quarry Bog (GDE, RRK). **American Coot**: 1 Nov (1000) South Holston L. (JWC), max.

Plover - Tern: **Semipalmated Plover**: 1 Sep (9) South Holston L. (JWC), max. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 1 / 11 Nov (15 / 1) South Holston L. (RLK), max / lrs. **Sanderling**: 24-26 Aug / 7-9 Sep (1) South Holston L. (JWC / Don Holt). **Western Sandpiper**: 20 Aug (2) South Holston L. (B&JP). **Dunlin**: 28 Oct / 1 Nov (6 / 1) South Holston L. (RLK). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**: 7 Sep (1) Big Bald Mtn (GRM), on

grassy balds, just 2nd record in NE Tenn. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 14 Oct (1) South Holston L. (RLK), ers. **Ring-billed Gull**: 29 Sep (1) South Holston L. (RLK), ers. **Caspian Tern**: 23 Aug - 3 Sep / 17 Oct (1-4) South Holston L. (JWC / RLK). **Black Tern**: 21 Aug - 9 Sep (1-32) South Holston L. (RLK, JWC, m.ob.). **Common Tern**: 24 Sep / 14 Oct / 1 Nov (1 / 35 / 1) South Holston L. (JWC / RLK / RLK). **Forster's Tern**: 21 Aug - 22 Oct / 11 Nov (1-4) South Holston L. (RLK, m.ob.).

Pigeon - Pipit: **Rock Pigeon**: 13 Sep (nest with 2 young) Erwin (RLK), well past the published late date in the *Breeding Bird Atlas*, although this species has been little studied in the state. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 8 / 18 Aug (1) Roan Mtn (Mike Sanders / RRK, Gil Derouen). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: Sep - Oct (12 ba.) Big Bald Mtn (MH), 1 juvenile-plumaged bird may have fledged locally, 2 recaptures had been banded in fall 2008; 9-19 Sep (4 im ba.) Whigg Meadow (DFV), 2 juvenile-plumaged birds may have fledged locally. **Rufous Hummingbird**: 4 Nov into Dec (1 ad female) South Holston L. (fide RRK, m.ob., captured by Mark Armstrong), had been banded in coastal Mississippi on 10 Jan 2009. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 29 Sep (1 ad) Elizabethton (RLK); 1 Oct (1 im) Quarry Bog (RLK); 6 Oct (1 im) Cades Cove, GSMNP (Shane Williams). **Red-bellied Woodpecker**: 23 Sep (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (RLK), a migrant. **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 25 Sep (1) Big Bald Mtn (MH), ers. **Loggerhead Shrike**: 30 Aug (1) South Holston L. (JWC). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 31 Oct (1) Cades Cove, GSMNP (WB), lrs. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 25 Sep (1) Big Bald Mtn (MH); 26 Sep (1) upper Watauga L., Johnson Co (TSM, Rob Biller); 29 Sep (1) Holston Valley (RLK); 13 Oct (1) Elizabethton (RLK). **Tree Swallow**: 1 Nov (1) South Holston L. (RLK), lrs. **Black-capped Chickadee**: 9 / 13 Sep (2 ba.) Whigg Meadow (DFV). **Sedge Wren**: 1 Oct (1) Quarry Bog (RLK). **Marsh Wren**: 26 Sep / 1 Oct (1 / 4) Quarry Bog (GDE, RRK / RLK). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: 10 / 19 Sep (1 / 2, all ba.) Big Bald Mtn (GRM), early there. **Hermit Thrush**: 26 Aug / 23 Sep (1 / 2) Roan Mtn (RLK). **American Pipit**: 21 Oct / 14 Nov (5 / 3) Round Bald on Roan Mtn (RLK).

Warbler - Siskin: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 18 Aug (1) Hampton Cr. Cove, Carter Co (RRK, Gil Derouen). **Golden-winged Warbler**: 9 / 12 Sep (2 ba.) Whigg Meadow (DFV). **Tennessee Warbler**: 13 Aug (1) Wilbur L. (B&JP), very early; 26 Aug (4) Roan Mtn (RLK), next earliest. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 16 Oct (1) Elizabethton (RLK). **Nashville Warbler**: Sep - Oct (3 ba.) Big Bald Mtn (GRM). **Magnolia Warbler**: 25 Aug (1) South Holston L. (RLK), ers away from probable breeding sites. **Cape May Warbler**: 26 Aug (5) Roan Mtn (RLK), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: Sep - Oct (3 ba.) Big Bald Mtn (GRM). **American Redstart**: 2 Nov (1) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (John Shumate); 27 Nov (1) Osceola Is., Sullivan Co (Mike Sanders); both were female-types & represent new late dates in NE Tenn. **Northern Waterthrush**: 13 Oct (1) Elizabethton (RLK), lrs. **LeConte's Sparrow**: 1 Nov (1) Sugarlands area, GSMNP (Benjamin Zank, photo, fide Susan Hoyle), 2nd park record (see below). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 23 Sep (1) Roan Mtn (RLK); 26 Sep (1) Shady Valley, Johnson Co (GDE, RRK). **White-throated Sparrow**: 26 Sep (1) Erwin (Kathy Noblet), ers. **White-crowned Sparrow**: 1 Oct (3) Holston Valley (JWC), ers. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 23 Sep (86) Roan Mtn (RLK), max. **Blue Grosbeak**: 4 Sep (3) Dry Hill, Johnson Co

(RLK), few Co. records. **Bobolink**: 26 Sep (5) Quarry Bog (GDE, RRK). **Pine Siskin**: 26 Aug / 23 Sep / 14 Nov (6-22) Roan Mtn (RLK); 26 Sep (1) Hampton, Carter Co (Bryan Stevens).

Locations: Big Bald Mtn - in Unicoi Co; Elizabethton - in Carter Co; Erwin - in Unicoi Co; GSMNP - Great Smoky Mtns. National Park; Holston Valley - in Sullivan Co; Quarry Bog - in Shady Valley, Johnson Co; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; South Holston L - in Sullivan Co; Watauga R - in Carter Co; Whigg Meadow - in Monroe Co; Wilbur L - in Carter Co.

Addenda: The following unpublished records were discovered during research on a previous park record of **LeConte's Sparrow** (see above). All of these observations were made in Cades Cove, GSMNP, by Alan B. Smith. **American Bittern**: 5 Oct 1976 (1) and 14 Oct 1977 (1). **Least Bittern**: 5 Oct 1976 (1), 1st park record. **Golden Eagle**: 16 Dec 1976 (1 ad., 1 im.). **Sora**: 22 Sep 1976 (4). **Bewick's Wren**: 5 Oct 1976 (1), surely one of the last park sightings. **Sedge Wren**: 5 Oct 1976 (3). **Marsh Wren**: 22 Sep 1976 (1) and 5 Oct 1976 (5). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 14 Oct 1977 (1), 1st park record. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 5 Oct 1976 (1). **Purple Finch**: 16 Oct 1976 (5), early.

RICHARD P. LEWIS, 407 V.I. Ranch Road, Bristol, TN 37620.
mountainbirds@email.com

OBSERVERS

DA - David Aborn
WB - Warren Bielenberg
CHB - Carolyn H. Bullock
KAC - Kevin A. Calhoon
PDC - Phillip D. Casteel
JWC - J. Wallace Coffey
KDE - K. Dean Edwards
GDE - Glen D. Eller
FCF - Francis C. Fekel
LJG - Leslie J. Gibbens
VH - Van Harris
RJH - R. John Henderson
RDH - Ron D. Hoff
MH - Mark Hopey
SHu - Susan Hubley
DRJ - Daniel R. Jacobson
DK - David Kirschke
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RRK - Roy R. Knispel
EKL - Edmund K. LeGrand
GRM - G. Rad Mayfield
LCM - Larry C. McDaniel
TSM - Thomas S. McNeil
DHM - Don H. Miller
NaM - Nancy Moore
DMo - Daniel Moss
DMy - Dollyann Myers
MN - Mike Nelson
B&JP - Brookie & Jean Potter
DDP - Dick D. Preston
WMP - William M. Pulliam
TLR - Tommie L. Rogers
ES - Ed Schneider
JKS - Jan K. Shaw
MBS - Michael B. Sledjeski
SGS - Scott G. Somershoe
BHS - Barbara H. Stedman
SJS - Stephen J. Stedman
DSw - Dale Swant
MCT - Michael C. Todd
DJT - David J. Trently
DFV - David F. Vogt
JRW - Jeff R. Wilson
LAW - Libby A. Wolfe

NTOS - Nashville Chapter TOS

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